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DRAFT

Environmental
Assessment

72

PROPOSED 1984 PLAN AMENDMENTS TO THE CALIFORNIA DESERT CONSERVATION AREA

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United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
California

DECEMBER 1984



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
California Desert District
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, California 92507

IN REPLY
REFER TO:
1600
(C-060.2)

Dear Reader:

Last April (1984), we invited you and other interested parties to review the California Desert Plan as amended and submit any comments and recommendations for proposed amendments of the plan. The response that we received from organizations and individuals as well as from our own staff resulted in the amendment proposals contained in this Draft Environmental Assessment.

The amendments being considered this year are only those for which there was an absolute need to consider and decide upon prior to May 1985. As we noted last April, we presently are conducting an evaluation of the Desert and the effects of managing it under the guidelines of the Plan. Due to the demands on staff time of that evaluation, we have limited this amendment review in scope, and have deferred those amendment proposals not rejected until the 1985 review.

My thanks to those of you who sent in comments and suggestions - I hope that you will continue to help us manage your public lands.

The decision to accept or reject these proposed amendments will be based on a number of factors including effect on the natural environment, input from the public, and recommendations of the California Desert District Advisory Council.

We are providing a 60-day period for public review of the Draft EA. Please be sure to return your comments to this office no later than **FEB 11 1985**. Send your comments to the following address:

California Desert District
Bureau of Land Management
ATTN: Plan Amendments
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, California 92507

Sincerely,

Gerald E Hillier
District Manager

11790807

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BLM CA TF 85 003 1792

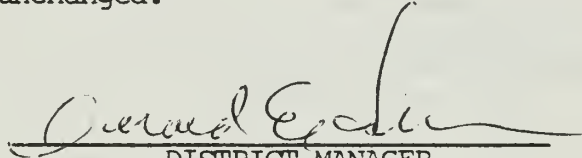
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Draft Environmental Assessment

PROPOSED 1984 AMENDMENTS
TO THE CALIFORNIA DESERT CONSERVATION AREA PLAN

Prepared by
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District

The Bureau of Land Management is conducting its 1984 review of the California Desert Plan. This Environmental Assessment considers the environmental consequences of accepting or rejecting each of the five proposed amendments which have been accepted for consideration. Amendments fall into several categories, including changes in the designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, desert-wide amendments, and new utility corridors. Under the Bureau's preferred alternative, four amendments would be accepted and one would be rejected. Desert-wide, acreage in each of the multiple use classes (C, L, M, and I) would remain unchanged.


DISTRICT MANAGER
CALIFORNIA DESERT

For Further Information Contact:

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PrBLM PROPOSED 1984 PLAN
DEA AMENDMENTS TO THE
1984 CALIFORNIA DESERT
2002376 CONSERVATION AREA

SUMMARY

PLAN AMENDMENTS

In accordance with the procedures set forth in Chapter 7 of the California Desert Plan and with 43 CFR 1610.5-5 (BLM Planning Regulations), the Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District, has initiated the fourth amendment review of the plan.

Proposals for amendments were accepted during a 30-day period from mid-April until May 15, 1984. Thirty proposals were made by the public and by BLM staff for consideration. These amendments were screened by BLM management and the California Desert District Advisory Council to determine which proposals should be considered at this time and which should be deferred, dropped, or could be handled more appropriately by an administrative action. Only those amendments for which there was a definite need for consideration and decision prior to May 1985 were accepted for consideration. This was due to the demands on staff time of the ongoing evaluation of the Desert and the effects of managing it under the Plan. Five amendments were recommended for consideration:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	1	Modify the boundaries or management prescription of thirteen ACECs as recommended in ACEC management plans previously prepared for each area. The ACECs include the following: a. Eureka Valley Dunes b. Darwin Falls c. Last Chance Canyon d. Jawbone-Butterbredd e. Salt Creek (Dumont) f. Upper Johnson Valley Yucca Rings g. Amargosa River/Grimshaw Lake h. Whitewater Canyon i. Big Morongo Canyon j. Salt Creek Pupfish/Rail Habitat k. Lake Cahuilla No. 2 l. Lake Cahuilla No. 5 m. Pilot Knob
	2	Designate Willow Hole/Edom Hill area as an ACEC.
	3	Change motorized vehicle access in Patton's Camp ACEC from "closed" to "limited."
Energy Production and Utility Corridors	4	Establish one-mile-wide utility corridor near Coso Hot Springs
Livestock Grazing	5	Modify wording of a portion of Livestock Grazing element.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Impacts have been assessed for both accepting or rejecting each amendment. They are summarized in Table S-1.

TABLE S - 1
CANDIDATE AMENDMENTS ---- SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

X = POSITIVE IMPACT

- = NEGATIVE IMPACT

Amendment No.	AMENDMENT	RESOURCES								USES			
		Soil-Air-Water	Botany	Wildlife	Horses/Burros	Cultural Resources	Native Americans	Wilderness	Visual Resources	Livestock Grazing	Recreation	Lands	Geology/Energy/Minerals
	ACEC Boundaries												
1a	Eureka Dunes		X	X		X							
1b	Darwin Falls			X									
1c	Last Chance Cyn					X							
1d	Jawbone - Butterbread			X			X			X			
1e	Salt Creek (Dumont)					X							
1f	Johnson Valley Yucca Rings		X										
1g	Amargosa/Grimshaw												
1h	Whitewater Cyn			X			X						
1i	Big Morongo Cyn			X									
1j	Salt Creek Pupfish/Rail		X	X									
1k	Lake Cahuilla - 2												X
1l	Lake Cahuilla - 5												X
1m	Pilot Knob												X
2	Willow Hole/Edom Hill		X	X		X	X				-		X
3	Patton's Camp										X		
4	Coso Utility Corridors								-				X
5	Grazing Element												

SELECTION OF PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Based in part upon the amendment-specific impacts, a preferred alternative was selected, either to accept, reject, or accept an alternative version of each amendment. This choice does not represent a final decision, but simply indicates a preliminary recommendation to be presented in the draft EA for public review and comment. The cumulative impacts of this preferred alternative are presented in Table S-2 below:

TABLE S-2
SUMMARY OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Resource	Unit of Measure	No Action	Preferred Alternative	Percent Change
<u>Motorized Vehicle Access</u>				
Limited	Acres	9,286,000	9,289,700	+0.04
Closed	Acres	1,996,000	1,992,300	-0.18
<u>ACEC's</u>				
Added	Number	0	1	
	Acres	0	22,095	
Deleted	Number	0	0	
	Acres	0	12,064	
Net Change	Number	0	+1	
	Acres	0	+10,031	

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the procedures set forth in Chapter 7 of the California Desert Conservation Area Plan (1980) and with 43 CFR 1610.5-5 (BLM planning regulations), the Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District, has initiated the third amendment review of the plan.

Proposals for amendments were accepted during a 30-day period from mid-April to May 15, 1984. Thirty amendments were proposed by the public and by the BLM staff for consideration during the review. The proposed amendments were then screened by BLM management and by the California Desert District Advisory Council to determine which ones met the following criteria:

- (1) Is there an absolute need for an amendment to be considered and decided upon prior to May 1985, the expected date of decision on the 1984 review process?
- (2) Is the proposed amendment based on new data not considered when the plan was developed?
- (3) Does the information represent a change in legal or regulatory mandate?
- (4) Is the supporting detail sufficient and the problem clearly stated so that the request can be considered?
- (5) Does the information represent a formal change in State or local government or agency plans?

Five proposals met the criteria and will be analyzed by this Environmental Assessment. Twenty-five proposals were rejected for consideration at this time or were deferred for consideration at a later date because of reasons detailed in Appendix B (Table B-1).

The final decision concerning whether or not to approve each amendment will be made 60 days following the publication of the Final EA. The decision will be based on several factors, including the findings of this EA and public response received during the review period. That decision is expected to be made in March 1985.

The majority of the amendments address site-specific issues. Map 1-1 indicates their regional location; specific maps can be found in Appendix A.

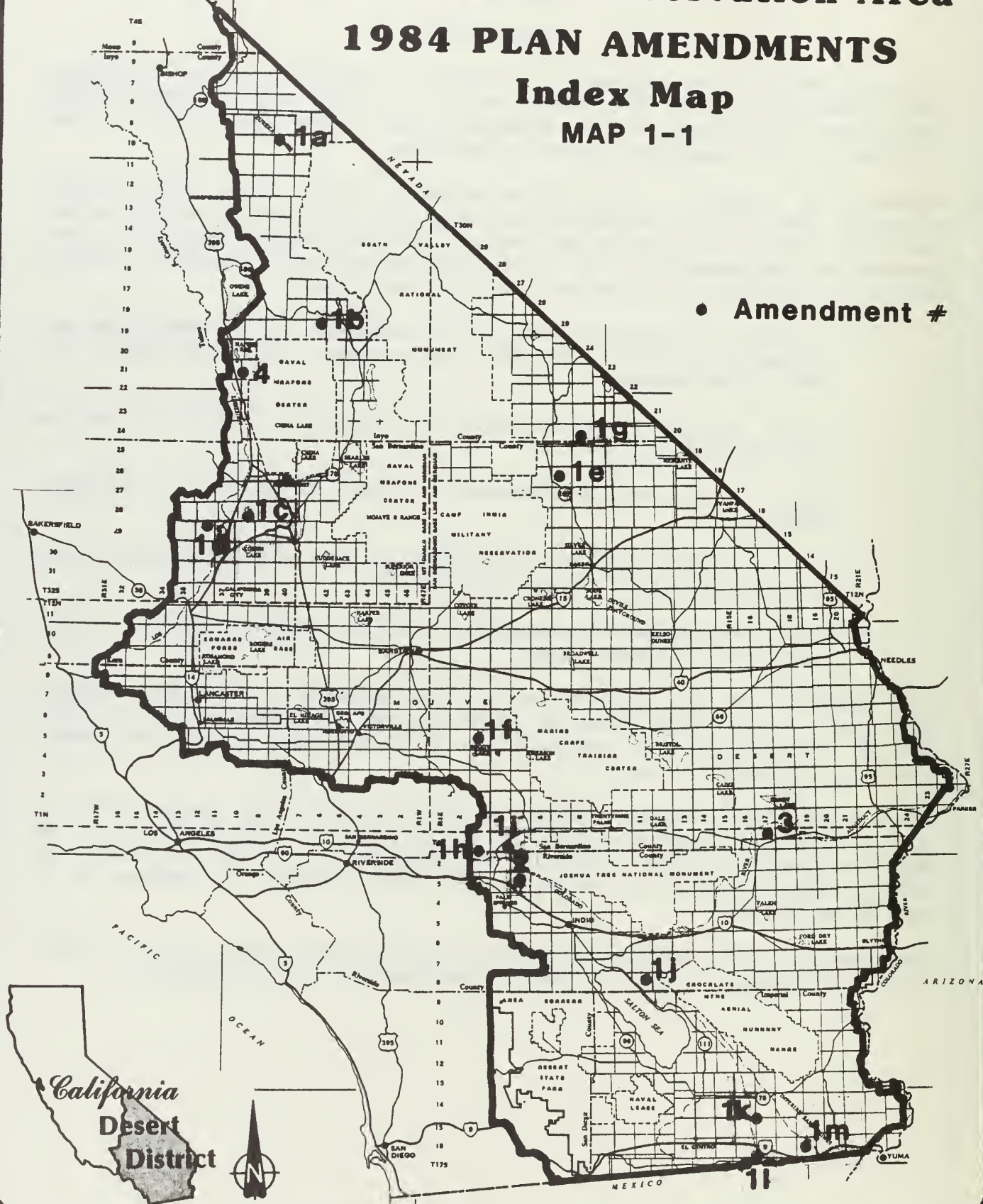
California Desert Conservation Area

1984 PLAN AMENDMENTS

Index Map

MAP 1-1

• Amendment #



CHAPTER 2

ALTERNATIVES

CHAPTER II

AMENDMENTS AND ALTERNATIVES

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Five proposed amendments to the California Desert Plan have been accepted for consideration. Each amendment has been considered individually for either acceptance or rejection. The rejection of an amendment represents the "no action" alternative.

The amendments have been grouped into the following categories:

1. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
2. Energy Production and Utility Corridors
3. Livestock Grazing

Table 2-1 describes each of the proposed amendments and the reasons given by the proponent for the change. Maps of each amendment are located in Appendix A; the proponents of the amendments are listed in Appendix C (Table C-1).

TABLE 2-1 - DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale for Selection of Preferred Alternative
1	AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN Refine original boundaries or modify management prescriptions of 13 ACECs. <u>These changes were proposed when activity plans were prepared for each ACEC over the last two years.</u>			
1a	<u>Eureka Valley Dunes ACEC (No. 3)</u> Alternative A: Add two areas of sand, which are habitat for two listed endangered species: Eureka Dunes Evening Primrose (<i>Oenothera avita</i> ssp <i>eurekaensis</i>) and Eureka Dune Grass (<i>Swallenia alexandrae</i>), and the Category I endangered species Shining Looweed (<i>Astragalus lentiginosus</i> var <i>micans</i>). <u>Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).</u>	This action would aid greatly in protection of these very sensitive species and fulfill BLM's obligation under the Endangered Species Act.	Accept	Amendment accepted for the reasons given in proponent's application.
1b	<u>Darwin Falls ACEC (No. 6)</u> Alternative A: Adjust boundary to correspond to resources identified in CDCA Plan for protective management. Exclude Zinc Hill area; include Millers Spring and China Garden Spring areas in Darwin Wash. <u>Alternative B: Reject Amendment (no action).</u>	The ACEC was designated for intensive protective management of wildlife habitat and scenic qualities. This will be accomplished by control or elimination of incompatible land uses and inclusion of areas with key resource components.	Accept	Same as above
1c	<u>Last Chance Canyon ACEC (No. 21)</u> Alternative A: Adjust boundary to include Section 28, T 28 S, R 38 E. <u>Alternative B: Reject Amendment (no action).</u>	Include sensitive and endangered rock shelters, quarry, and temporary camp sites in an area which is receiving damage from camping, vandalism, and off-road vehicle activity.	Accept	Same as above

TABLE 2-1 - DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale for Selection of Preferred Alternative
1d	<p><u>Jawbone-Butterbrecht ACEC (No. 20)</u></p> <p>Alternative A: Expand ACEC to include land in Cottonwood Creek and Kelso Valley areas.</p> <p>Alternative B: Reject Amendment (no action).</p>	<p>This will promote more effective management of the area by bringing into conformance the borders of the Rudnick Common Grazing Allotment, the ACEC, the Sierra-Mojave-Tehachapi Ecotone Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WEMA), and lands affected by the vehicle management boundary agreement between the BLM and the Rudnick Estate Trust. It will enable the Bureau to better manage wildlife, range, and vehicular uses.</p>	Accept	Same as above
1e	<p><u>Salt Creek (Dumont) ACEC (No. 18)</u></p> <p>Alternative A: Adjust boundary to include additional 100 acres in T 18 N, R 7 E, section 19, SEW.</p> <p>Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).</p>	<p>This parcel contains an adobe structure and several mines and mine shafts which are closely associated with the gold mining activities of the previous century. These structures have historical importance which closely ties in with the several sites within the original ACEC boundary.</p>	Accept	Same as above
1f	<p><u>Upper Johnson Valley Yucca Rings ACEC (No. 46)</u></p> <p>Alternative A: Make boundary legally definable and inclusive of the largest clones and heaviest concentration of yucca rings.</p> <p>Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).</p>	<p>As originally presented, the boundary for this ACEC was not definable in legal terms nor was it realistic. The area is almost completely flat, making it extremely difficult to place the limits of the ACEC boundary on the ground. The new boundary is legally definable and encompasses the area containing the greatest resource values. The largest clones and heaviest concentrations of rings are within the new boundary. The original boundary had excluded some of the more significant resources.</p>	Accept	Same as above

TABLE 2-1 - DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale for Selection of Preferred Alternative
1g	<p><u>Amargosa River/Grimshaw Lake ACEC (No. 13)</u></p> <p>Alternative A: Modify boundaries and split ACEC into two ACECs: the Amargosa Canyon Natural Area ACEC and the Grimshaw Lake Natural Area ACEC.</p> <p>Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).</p>	<p>Revised boundaries more correctly reflect areas of highest resource sensitivity, and will allow more effective management of those resources. The area would be managed as two separate ACECs rather than as one because of somewhat differing uses and management prescriptions necessary for each area.</p>	Accept	Same as above
1h	<p><u>Whitewater Canyon ACEC (No. 49)</u></p> <p>Alternative A: Adjust boundary to include those portions of T 1 S, R 3 E, sections 19, 20, 29, and 30 not already in the ACEC. Sections 20 and 30 are public land and would be designated immediately. Sections 19 and 29 are private but planned for acquisition; upon acquisition, they would become part of the ACEC.</p> <p>Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).</p>	<p>The expansion would include critical bighorn sheep range. It would provide a mechanism for increased management and cooperation with the adjacent San Bernardino National Forest.</p>	Accept	Same as above
1i	<p><u>Big Morongo Canyon ACEC (No. 50)</u></p> <p>Alternative A: Increase size of ACEC from 2695 acres to 3705 acres.</p> <p>Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).</p>	<p>The revised boundary would include important areas of summer range for the herd of bighorn sheep which range the Little San Bernardino Mountains; it would permit management prescriptions to correct the degradation of this essential habitat for this BLM sensitive species.</p>	Accept	Same as above

TABLE 2-1 - DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale for Selection of Preferred Alternative
1j	<p><u>Salt Creek Pupfish/Rail Habitat ACEC (No. 60)</u></p> <p>Alternative A: Designate additional scattered parcels of public land as part of ACEC. Presently, 2,503 acres of scattered tracts of public land have been designated as part of the ACEC; the amendment would designate several neighboring scattered tracts (about 2240 acres) as part of the ACEC.</p> <p>Alternative B: <u>Reject amendment (no action).</u></p>	<p>Expansion area includes outlying springs and seeps which contain populations of desert pupfish, have Yuma Clapper Rail habitat, or are being considered as transplant locations for desert pupfish.</p>	Accept	Same as above
1k	<p><u>Lake Cahuilla Number 2 ACEC (No. 65)</u></p> <p>Alternative A: Change management prescriptions restricting mineral extraction and development (Table 15 in Desert Plan) and prohibiting sand and gravel extraction (Appendix IV, Page 49). Remove "x" on Table 15 (in "restrict mineral exploration and development" column). Change Appendix IV prescription number five to read "Prohibit sand and gravel extraction except within the East Highline Canal Sand and Gravel Extraction Plan area. Within the Plan area, extraction activities would be guided by the provisions of the management plan."</p> <p>Alternative B: <u>Reject amendment (no action).</u></p>	<p>This proposal would bring into conformance the recommendations of the CDCA Plan for sand and gravel extraction in ACEC 65 with those of the proposed East Highline Sand and Gravel Extraction Management Plan (EHSGEMP). The Desert Plan disallows extraction within the ACEC. The EHSGEMP sets forth guidelines for extraction in appropriate locations along the East Mesa of Lake Cahuilla, in a manner which would protect sensitive cultural resources. The EHSGEMP is a multi-disciplinary document that includes an analysis of cultural resources as well as wildlife, botanical, and sand and gravel resources. It is based on site-specific inventories which were not feasible in preparing the CDCA Plan.</p>	Accept	Same as above

TABLE 2-1 - DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale for Selection of Preferred Alternative
11	<p><u>Lake Cahuilla Number 5 ACEC (No. 69)</u></p> <p>Alternative A: Change management prescriptions restricting mineral extraction and development (Table 15 in Desert Plan) and prohibiting sand and gravel extraction (Appendix IV, page 51). Remove "x" on Table 15 (in "restrict mineral exploration and development" column). Change Appendix IV prescription number four to read "Prohibit sand and gravel extraction except within the East Highline Sand and Gravel Extraction Management Plan area. Within the Plan area, extraction activities would be guided by the provisions of the management plan."</p> <p>Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).</p>	<p>This proposal would bring into conformance the recommendations of the CDCA Plan for sand and gravel extraction in ACEC 69 with those of the proposed East Highline Sand and Gravel Extraction Management Plan (EHSGEMP). The Desert Plan disallows extraction within the ACEC. The EHSGEMP sets forth guidelines for extraction in appropriate locations along the East Mesa of Lake Cahuilla, in a manner which would protect sensitive cultural resources. The EHSGEMP is a multi-disciplinary document that includes an analysis of cultural resources as well as wildlife, botanical, and sand and gravel resources. It is based on site-specific inventories which were not feasible in preparing the CDCA Plan.</p>	Accept	Same as above
1m	<p><u>Pilot Knob ACEC (No. 73)</u></p> <p>Alternative A: Delete the western 1,410 acres of this 2,230-acre ACEC. Western border of ACEC will follow the southern extension of Sidewinder Road. Northern border will abut against Pilot Knob.</p> <p>Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).</p>	<p>The boundary of the ACEC would be modified to correspond to actual distribution of cultural resource values. Areas west of Sidewinder Road extension lack heavily patinated desert pavement surfaces which mark the main areas of concern for this ACEC. Although some cultural resource values are present, they lack the significance of other values associated with this ACEC.</p>	Accept	Same as above
2	<p><u>Designate approximately 2,000 acres in the Coachella Valley as the Willow Hole/Edom Hill ACEC.</u></p> <p>Alternative A: Accept amendment.</p> <p>Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).</p>	<p>The ACEC would be designated to provide protection for the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, the Least Bell's Vireo, and two federal candidate plant species. These sensitive species are being severely threatened by heavy recreational vehicle use in the area.</p>	Accept	Same as above

TABLE 2-1 - DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale for Selection of Preferred Alternative
3	<p>Patton's Iron Mountain Divisional Camp ACEC (No. 52)</p> <p>Alternative A: Change the motorized vehicle access designation from "closed" to "limited". Vehicle access will be allowed only on routes to be designated in the ACEC management plan.</p> <p>Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).</p>	<p>The boundary fence of the camp and the fenced relief map are a full one-quarter mile within the closed area boundary. Continuing the closed designation would preclude vehicle access to these areas. Changing the designation would permit travel on an approved route to a central entrance area within the old camp. Vehicular access would be provided from a single controlled point on the camp perimeter. Vehicular access is important as many visitors will be older, and distances from landmarks may be as much as two miles from each other.</p>	Accept	Same as above
4	<p>Proposed Coso Utility Corridor</p> <p>Alternative A: Establish a one-mile wide, five-mile long utility corridor to connect the Coso Known Geothermal Resource Area with designated utility corridor A.</p> <p>Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).</p>	<p>A corridor is needed to allow construction of transmission lines of 220-kv or above to transport electrical power from geothermal resources on BLM and Naval Weapons Center lands to powerlines in utility corridor A in Rose Valley.</p>	Accept	Same as above
5	<p>Revised Wording in Livestock Grazing Element</p> <p>Alternative A: Delete the fifth paragraph of the section titled "Allocations" on page 69 of the Desert Plan and replace it with the following:</p> <p>"No adjustment was made for precipitation received during the survey period. While above normal in some areas in 1977-78, it followed several drought years; therefore, plant vigor and density may or may not be normal. [Active] preference will be determined</p>	<p>The Desert Plan surveys were deemed accurate enough to reduce [active] grazing preference, but not to increase it. The rationale at the time was that the survey was done during wet years. Yet rainfall, as is typical in the desert, was far from uniform. And coming off the 1975-1976 drought, full vigor had not returned to all species of vegetation. It appears that basic allocations should be based upon what known productivity is on the ground. Several allotments with good management and good productivity were unnecessarily penalized</p>	Reject	<p>Although plant vigor and density may or may not have been normal in 1977-78, the Desert Plan surveys were not conducted until early 1979. By then, several years of above normal rainfall had occurred. Thus no information exists which fundamentally refutes the present wording of the plan, that is, that due to "the above average rainfall ... capacity estimates should be considered high."</p>

TABLE 2-1 - DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale for Selection of Preferred Alternative
5	<p><u>Revised Wording in Livestock Grazing Element (Con't)</u></p> <p>on the basis of range surveys, monitoring, and known conditions of forage productivity."</p> <p><u>Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).</u></p>	<p>by not being allowed warranted increases.</p>		<p>Interior Department policy now forbids the allocation of forage based on range survey data. Therefore, if the proposal were adopted, monitoring would remain the only one of the criteria proposed by the amendment which could be used to make future adjustments in active preference. This would represent no change from present management under the Desert Plan, which emphasizes monitoring as the means for future adjustments.</p> <p>It should be noted that since 1979, most allotments have had allotment management plans written and are or soon will be managed under those AMPs. It should also be noted that during years of heavy rainfall, the Bureau consistently has made ephemeral forage available on request to operators in excess of perennial preference.</p>

TABLE 2-2
CANDIDATE AMENDMENTS ---- SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

X = POSITIVE IMPACT

--- = NEGATIVE IMPACT

Amendment No.	AMENDMENT	RESOURCES								USES			
		Soil-Air-Water	Botany	Wildlife	Horses/Burros	Cultural Resources	Native Americans	Wilderness	Visual Resources	Livestock Grazing	Recreation	Lands	Geology/Energy/Minerals
	ACEC Boundaries												
1a	Eureka Dunes		X	X		X							
1b	Darwin Falls			X									
1c	Last Chance Cyn					X							
1d	Jawbone - Butterbread			X			X			X			
1e	Salt Creek (Dumont)					X							
1f	Johnson Valley Yucca Rings		X										
1g	Amargosa/Grimshaw												
1h	Whitewater Cyn			X			X						
1i	Big Morongo Cyn			X									
1j	Salt Creek Pupfish/Rail		X	X									
1k	Lake Cahuilla - 2												X
1l	Lake Cahuilla - 5												X
1m	Pilot Knob												X
2	Willow Hole/Edom Hill		X	X		X	X				-		X
3	Patton's Camp										X		
4	Coso Utility Corridors												X
5	Grazing Element												



CHAPTER 3

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

CHAPTER III

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Affected Environment refers specifically to that limited area which may be impacted by the proposed amendment. In some amendments this may be extremely limited; in others it may apply to the entire California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA).

Sources of information are available which discuss the affected environments adequately for this document:

- The California Desert Conservation Area Plan (including overlays), 1980.
- The Appendices for the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Plan, CDCA, September 1980.
- ACEC Management Plans

Abbreviations will be used in identifying references for this section, as follows:

- California Desert Conservation Area Plan, 1980: CDCA Plan.
- Maps contained in this Plan will be identified by their number. For example, the map on Wild Horse and Burros, Map No. 8.
- Appendices to the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Plan for California Desert Conservation Area will be identified by the letter of the volume and the number of the appendix. For example, Appendix II, Volume A (Summary of Decisions of Resource Values) would be abbreviated as Appendix A II.

Next is a brief tabular listing of the amendments to be considered, followed when necessary by a more in-depth discussion of each amendment including major resource values which may be affected by the proposal.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

<u>Amendment</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>
1	Modify Boundary or Management Design of Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)	
	a) Eureka Dunes ACEC - No. 3	CDCA Plan, Table 2, Maps 3, 17 Appendix A II - pp. 133-134 Appendix C IV - p. 2 Sikes Act Plan for Eureka Dunes ACEC, 1982
	b) Darwin Falls ACEC - No. 6	CDCA Plan, Table 2, Maps 3, 17 Appendix A II - pp. 191-192 Appendix C IV - pp. 4-5 Sikes Act Plan for Darwin Falls ACEC, 1982
	c) Last Chance Canyon ACEC - No. 21	CDCA Plan, Map 17 Appendix A II, pp. 181-182 Appendix C IV, p. 17 Management Plan for Last Chance Canyon ACEC, 1982 Unit Resource Analysis for El Paso Planning Unit, 1975
	d) Jawbone - Butterbredd ACEC - No. 20	CDCA Plan, Tables 2, 6, 15, Maps 3, 4, 9, 17 Appendix A II - pp. 177-179 Appendix C IV - pp. 16-17 Sikes Act Plan for Jawbone Butterbredd ACEC, 1982 Unit Resource Analysis for El Paso Planning Unit - Wildlife Section, 1975
	e) Salt Creek (Dumont) ACEC No. 18	CDCA Plan, Table 2, Maps 3, 17 Appendix A II - pp. 302-305 Appendix C IV - pp. 14-15 Management Plan for Salt Creek Hills, 1982
	f) Upper Johnson Valley Yucca Rings ACEC - No. 46	CDCA Plan, Maps No. 6 and 17 Appendix A II, pp. 261-262, 265 Appendix C IV, p. 35 Management Plan for the Upper Johnson Valley Yucca Rings ACEC, 1982.

<u>Amendment</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>
1 (Cont.)	g) Whitewater Canyon ACEC - No. 49	CDCA Plan, Tables 2, 15, Maps 3, 4, 17 Appendix A II, pp. 417-419 Appendix C IV p. 37 Management Plan for Whitewater Canyon ACEC, 1982
	h) Big Morongo Canyon ACEC - No. 50	CDCA Plan, Tables 2, 15, Maps, 3, 4, 17 Appendix A II, pp. 417-419 Appendix C IV, p. 38 Management Plan for Big Morongo Canyon ACEC, 1982.
	i) Salt Creek Pupfish/Rail Habitat ACEC - No. 60	CDCA Plan, Tables 2, 15, Maps 3, 4, 17 Appendix A II, pp. 452-455 Appendix CIV, p. 45 Management Plan for the Salt Creek Desert Pupfish/Rail Habitat ACEC, 1972
	j) Lake Cahuilla No. 2 ACEC - No. 65	CDCA Plan, Table 15, Map 17 Appendix A II pp. 485-487 Appendix C IV, p. 49 Lake Cahuilla Shoreline (East Mesa Segment) ACEC Management Plan, 1984 East Highline Canal Sand and Gravel Extraction Management Plan, 1983
	k) Lake Cahuilla No. 5 ACEC - No. 69	Same as for Lake Cahuilla No. 2, ACEC 65
	l) Pilot Knob ACEC - No. 73	CDCA Plan, Table 15, Map 17 Appendix A II, pp. 483-485, 487 Appendix C IV, p. 54 Management Plan for Pilot Knob ACEC, 1982
2	Willow Hole/Edom Hill Proposed ACEC	CDCA Plan, Table 3, Maps 3, 4 Appendix A II, pp. 446-449
3	Patton's Iron Mountains Divisional Camp ACEC - No. 52	CDCA Plan, Table 15, Map 17 Appendix A II, pp. 405-407 Appendix C IV p. 39 Recreation Management Plan for Iron Mountain Divisional Camp, in Preparation
4	Coso Utility Corridors	CDCA Plan, pp. 115-122; Maps 3, 4, 16 Appendix A II, pp. 166-171 Final EIS for Proposed Leasing Within the COSO Known Geothermal Area, 1980
5	Grazing Element Change	CDCA Plan, Chapter 4, pp. 67-81.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

AMENDMENT ONE:

ACECs

The following information will assist the reader in understanding the meaning of the Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designation.

ACECs were established in 1976 when the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) defined them as areas "...within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards."

Designation as an ACEC does not in itself limit or preclude uses. When wisely planned and properly conducted, use and development can be consistent with the ACEC designation.

Prior to designation, management prescriptions are developed for each proposed ACEC area. These provide site-specific guidance for managing the ACEC and may include actions which BLM has authority to carry out, such as posting signs, patrolling, and fencing, as well as recommendations for actions which BLM does not have direct authority to implement, such as cooperative agreements with other agencies.

An activity plan, or management plan, translates the special management prescription into on-the-ground implementation actions. The activity plans will vary in size and complexity depending on the nature of the resources and resource uses within the ACEC.

The activity plan clearly identifies the management objectives of the ACEC. It includes a description of types of future uses, activities, and management practices considered to be compatible with the purposes of the ACEC, as well as a description of any existing incompatible uses, activities, or practices within the area. The plan also includes the schedules and the "details" of implementing the special management requirements, e.g., patrol schedules, specifications for facilities, etc. These plans are prepared by specialists in all relevant resource disciplines so that all resources and uses are properly considered. The plans involve public review and environmental analysis.

Boundary modifications of several ACECs which are under consideration in this amendment are based upon detailed study during preparation of activity plans.

AMENDMENT 1-k, 1-1:

CHANGE MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS FOR SAND AND GRAVEL EXTRACTION in ACECs 65, 69

Extensive archaeological sites developed along the shoreline of prehistoric Lake Cahuilla, as the Colorado River flooded the Imperial Valley several times during the last 2000 years. The lakeshore and embayment ecology provided unparalleled opportunities for food gathering and subsistence for prehistoric populations.

Wave action and long shore drift created and deposited massive quantities of sand and gravel along the shoreline. Extraction of gravel in the East Highline area began in the early 1900's and continues today. This long-term mining has destroyed archaeological sites along over 60 percent of the shoreline. This material is presently used by Imperial County for road construction and maintenance. Economics require that the sand and gravel be extracted close to the point of use.

The need to protect sensitive and unique cultural values while permitting prudent sand and gravel extraction led to development by the BLM El Centro Resource Area of the East Highline Canal Sand and Gravel Extraction and Management Plan. The plan designates four sensitivity levels for different locations in the East Highline Study Area. These range from high sensitivity, where no gravel extraction is permitted, to low sensitivity for areas which have already been destroyed through gravel removal. Intermediate sensitivity areas require (1) additional Class III archaeological reconnaissance at intervals of 20 meters or less and mitigation measures, or (2) no further surveys but application of mitigation techniques. The Lake Cahuilla ACEC Activity Plan designates areas of each separate ACEC which fall within the above sensitivity levels.

AMENDMENT TWO:

WILLOW HOLE/EDOM HILL PROPOSED ACEC

Cultural Resources

Significant archaeological resources have been identified at a site near Willow Hole, consisting of four recorded loci in a series of sandy mesquite hummocks. The site has been identified as either an extensive base camp or a permanent village site. It has been dated to the late prehistoric period and was occupied by Cahuilla people. A wide range of artifact types has been recorded here. The site is currently being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. It also has considerable ethnographic values to the contemporary Cahuilla. Edom Hill has also been identified as having important historic and traditional associations for the Cahuilla.

Wildlife

The proposed Edom Hill/Willow Hole ACEC encompasses 1,766 acres of public land in and around the Indio Hills in the Coachella Valley. Windblown sand, deposited along the western toe of Edom Hill and in scattered pockets on the downwind side of many nearby knolls, provides the best remaining habitat on public land for the federally-listed threatened Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (Uma inornata). The Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard Recovery Team has identified this as one of three areas necessary for the continued existence of this species. The Habitat Conservation Plan, which is being prepared in a massive multi-agency and private sector effort, emphasizes the need for the protection of this area to ensure the long term survival of this species. Other wildlife values include the Least Bell's Vireo, a state-listed endangered bird which has been recorded there regularly, and the Coachella Valley round-tail ground squirrel.

Vegetation

The proposed boundaries of this ACEC include several documented sites for two species of rare plants, "Coachella Valley Milk-vetch" (Astragalus lentiginosus var. coachellae), and "Little San Bernardino Mountain Linanthus" (Linanthus maculatus). These two plant species are currently under status review for possible listing as endangered or threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1980 and 1983). Both species are recognized as rare and endangered by the California Native Plant Society (Smith, 1980) and as sensitive by the Bureau of Land Management (Bureau of Land Management, 1982).

The proposed ACEC boundaries also encompass a grove of native California fan palms (Washingtonia filifera). This grove occurs in the drainage sink area of Willow Hole. Native fan palm oases are considered as an unusual plant assemblage in the California Desert by the BLM (California Desert Plan, 1980).

Recreation

Recreational use of the area is heavy. The Edom Hill/Flat Top Mountain/Willow Hole area is the second most heavily used ORV area in the Indio Resource Area. Thirty years of constantly increasing vehicular use has turned the site into a "vehicle playground" which provides bowls for hill climbs, strips for sand dragging, obstacle courses, and trails for racing and touring. The maze of sandy trails which have been developed throughout the area, support motorcycles, all terrain vehicles (ATVs), sand rails, dune buggies and 4-wheel-drive vehicles of all types. The varied topography provides challenging courses and sites for enthusiasts, regardless of their age, experience or kind of equipment being used. All predictions indicate that the use will increase with the population of this rapidly growing area.

Energy Production - Wind Energy

The entire proposed ACEC has been leased for wind energy development. Construction is being closely monitored to ensure that roads, pad, etc. avoid sensitive sand habitats and archaeological sites. Developers are eager to control recreational use of the area because of safety, liability, and vandalism problems.

AMENDMENT THREE:

PATTON'S IRON MOUNTAIN DIVISIONAL CAMP - ACEC NO. 52

In the spring of 1942, as General Rommel and his troops rumbled through the deserts of North Africa, the U.S. War Department determined that American troops should be trained in desert warfare. They designated General George S. Patton, Jr. as Commanding General of the Desert Training Center (DTC). Patton and his staff selected as the location of the DTC an area roughly 100 by 200 miles in size extending west to east from Indio to near Prescott, and north to south from Searchlight to Yuma.

A permanent base camp was established east of Indio (Camp Young). Divisional camps, airfields, and other installations were established throughout the DTC. One of the divisional camps was at Iron Mountain. General Patton did not remain long in the DTC. He left with the first wave of troops before October, 1942, but his imprint on the training methods and conduct of maneuvers remained throughout the lifetime of the training area.

Iron Mountain Divisional Camp was closed in May, 1944 and remained as public land under the administration of the BLM. In the following years, remnants of the camp were damaged or removed by vehicles, hobby collecting and natural erosion. In 1973, the Bureau fenced a large portion of the camp to protect it from vehicular use while research was done to formulate long-range management plans. In 1976 a fence was constructed around one outstanding relic, a tennis court-sized earthen relief map of the DTC. Finally, in 1980, the California Desert Plan designated the camp and surrounding area, a total of 3606 acres, as an ACEC. The purposes of the ACEC were to protect the historic resources and to interpret the historic value for the public. The area was closed to motorized vehicles.

Historical resources remaining within the ACEC include camp roads, rock designs of company symbols and special insignias, the earthen relief map of the DTC area, two stone chapel structures, and miles of rock alignments along roads, walkways, and around most large perennial plants. All of these features are in fair to good condition. There are no known prehistoric or paleontological resources within the ACEC.

Vegetation in the area is characteristic of the creosote bush scrub habitat of the lower Mojave Desert. Common species include creosote bush, cheesebush, bur sage, mormon tea, and sand verben. Some plant species, such as ocotillo, are found on site, primarily due to the transplanting efforts of servicemen in the early 1940's. There are no known rare or endangered plant species or Unusual Plant Assemblages within the ACEC.

Common wildlife species in the area include lizards, various species of snakes, rodents, and other small mammals. Larger mammals, such as the coyote and bobcat, may move through the area. Desert tortoise are also found in the region.

Current developments at the ACEC include a barbed wire fence which surrounds approximately 72 percent (1,000 acres) of the original camp area and a six-foot-high chain link fence which surrounds the relief map. Within the boundary fence, 21 turnstyle entry points have been installed to facilitate foot access into the camp. Immediately outside the boundary fence is a one lane dirt road

which was one of the original camp roads and later used to provide access for the construction and maintenance of the fence. This road also serves to provide public access to the camp. Other developments include soil berms, water diversions to convey runoff away from sensitive locations, and a network of dirt roads developed during the operation of the camp.

Recreational use of the ACEC amounts to approximately 1,000 visits per year. Public knowledge of the camp will undoubtedly increase use in the future. Because of the age of the facility, some visitors come to the area to view the remnants of an interesting period of American history. For other visitors, the ACEC offers a unique opportunity to relive an important period of their lives and recount experiences not only of their time at Iron Mountain, but later battles with their units in Europe and Africa under General Patton. These individuals, the Iron Mountain veterans, are entering their 60's and 70's and have a very special interest in the area and much more leisure time to visit.

Currently, the entire ACEC is closed to vehicle travel. The closest that visitors can legally drive to the camp boundary is one-quarter mile. Important historic features located within the fence enclosure, such as the two chapels and living areas located along Headquarters and Kitchen Roads, are up to one mile away from the parking site. Depending on the condition of the "open" dirt roads which surround the ACEC, visitors may be forced to walk a considerable distance to view key camp features. Actual use has shown that visitors drive to the boundary fence and walk into the enclosure through one of the turnstyle access points.

AMENDMENT FOUR: COSO UTILITY CORRIDOR

Alternative A - Accept Amendment

Cultural Resources

No cultural resources data specific to the proposed amendment has been generated. Existing information is available from Class I and Class II inventories carried out in preparing the California Desert Plan, the intensive data provided for the Coso geothermal area EIS, and various projects in the area.

Overall cultural resources sensitivity is high, and there is a potential for lithic scatters, workshops and temporary camps within the proposed corridor. Potential site density is anticipated to be highest adjacent to the Naval Weapons Center boundary, and lowest at the junction with the existing utility corridor. Cultural resources within the corridor may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Visual Resources

The proposed corridor lies in a broad valley which has little visual diversity and has been rated fair in scenic quality. Vegetation is sparse and provides little variety to a broad expanse of mixed desert shrubs. The area has many intrusions, including numerous unimproved roads, the Gil Station highway rest stop, U.S. 395, transmission lines, mines and fences, cultivated fields and agricultural buildings. The alluvial fans are the most visible areas of the valley. The scenic quality is enhanced by the view of the Sierra Nevada Range to the west and Coso Range to the east.

The land surrounding the proposed corridor falls within Visual Resource Management Class III. There are five management classes ranging from Class I, usually wilderness area in which very limited management activity is allowed, to Class V, areas where the natural character of the land has been disturbed to the point where rehabilitation is needed. In Class III, management activity may cause visible changes in the basic elements of the landscape, but these should remain subordinate to the existing landscape. Basic elements include line, form, color and texture (see Glossary).

Much of the proposed corridor will be visible from U.S. 395. Traffic volume on this highway is high, and users have been found to object to changes in the existing landscape viewed from the highway. Thus, this is an area of high visual sensitivity.

AMENDMENT FIVE:

GRAZING ELEMENT (Affected Environment)

The amendment was proposed primarily because the proponent questioned the Desert Plan's conclusion that grazing capacity "should be considered high" due to the "above average rainfall received during the survey period" (p.69). The proponent maintains that rainfall, "while above normal in some areas in 1977--78," followed several dry years, citing the 1975-76 drought. As a result, "full vigor may not have returned to all species of vegetation." Therefore, rainfall patterns and amounts in the north Mojave desert are the key points at issue.

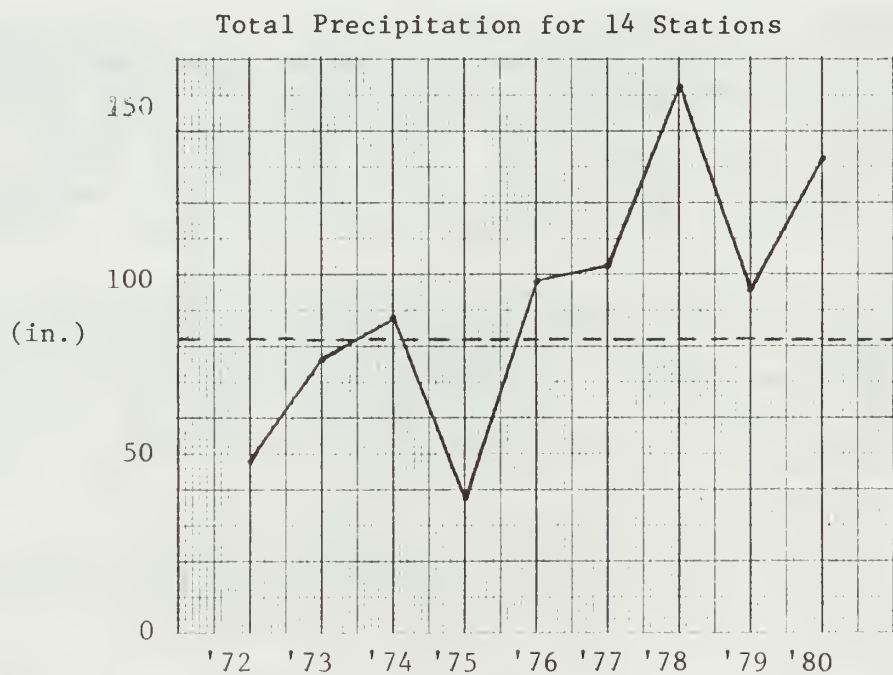
Figure 3-1 indicates the average precipitation for the Mojave desert from 1972 to 1980, based on data from 14 stations in the area. Rainfall norms were based on data collected over a 33-year average period at each station (ranging from 11 years at Shoshone to 53 years at Haiwee). Table 3-1 lists the percent of normal precipitation received at each of the 14 stations for the years 1972 to 1980.

Prior to the Desert Plan survey, 1972 and 1975 clearly were years of below-average rainfall. Precipitation was about normal in 1973 and 1974 and significantly above normal in nearly all parts of the desert from 1977 to 1980. In 1976, rainfall was above normal; however, much of this rain occurred in September of that year as a result of tropical storms. If September is ignored, rainfall throughout the desert was in the low normal range.

Table 3-1
PRECIPITATION AT 14 STATIONS IN CDCA

	Ave. Precip. (in.)	Percent of Average Precipitation								
		1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Baker	3.3	91	167	158	42	179	150	155	-	141
Barstow	4.3	100	79	65	28	95	135	184	140	188
Deep Springs	5.5	71	104	67	75	171	111	-	-	149
El Mirage	6.5	29	94	118	31	74	143	158	108	132
Haiwee	6.6	35	94	167	47	150	124	249	83	148
Inyokern	4.2	43	64	143	40	126	181	267	121	195
Mitchell Caverns	9.4	52	83	76	45	127	130	184	216	217
Mojave	6.0	27	108	92	33	87	138	247	113	165
Mountain Pass	7.8	97	128	121	65	87	121	169	127	155
Needles	4.6	70	65	124	61	180	83	191	109	165
Randsburg	5.9	25	98	103	39	92	110	217	102	178
Shoshone	5.1	-	75	71	31	110	104	163	80	147
Victorville	5.4	52	87	98	54	141	119	219	131	172
Wildrose Station	7.1	55	79	113	46	114	96	237	56	108

FIGURE 3-1



-----Total combined yearly rainfall - 14 stations
 - - -Average combined yearly rainfall - 14 stations

The Bureau's survey was a multistage vegetation inventory, being based on Landsat imagery, low-level aerial photo transects, and ground measurements. The Landsat imagery was taken in August, 1976 (following the dry 1975-76 period, but prior to the heavy September 1976 rains). The Landsat data was not used to determine vegetation production; rather, it was used to classify the CDCA into 28 vegetation information classes. The boundaries of these classes are not subject to change between normal wet and dry rainfall cycles; therefore, the question of whether or not the CDCA was experiencing a wet or dry cycle at the time the imagery was made is irrelevant.

The carrying capacity figures which appeared in the final plan were derived by applying plant cover, height, and volume data obtained from the low-level air photo transects and ground measurements to each of the Landsat classes. Ground measurements have been made several times in the CDCA, including surveys by BLM staff in the East Mojave in 1976 (at the end of the low rainfall period of the early 1970s). However, the ground measurements used in calculating the production figures listed in the final plan were made in the spring and summer of 1979, following several years of above-normal rainfall. The aerial photo transects were taken in the fall of 1978 and the winter and spring of 1979.

As a result of the findings of the Desert Plan survey, the following adjustments were made in forage allocation: (1) nine allotments were cut an average of 2878 AUMs, each, because of a shortage of forage; (2) eighteen allotments showed an excess of forage averaging 1013 AUMs per allotment but were given no increase in allocations; (3) one allotment received an increased allotment of 69 AUMs; and (4) two allotments, which had previously had no preference, received a total of 1179 AUMs of preference.

The results of the survey were never intended to represent a definitive finding of the amount of forage available in the desert. Rather, these values "merely represent a starting point from which to adjust AUM allocations, after monitoring studies" (Desert Plan, page 68). A policy of adjustments based on monitoring has always been at the heart of the Desert Plan.

CHAPTER 4

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

CHAPTER IV

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the scientific and analytic basis for the selection of the preferred alternative. It discusses the significant impacts that are anticipated to result from both implementation and rejection of each of the amendments. Both the beneficial and adverse impacts affecting the environmental components, as discussed in Chapter 3, will be documented. Knowledge of the area and professional judgment, based on observation and analysis of similar conditions and responses in similar areas, have been used to infer environmental impacts where data is limited.

The analysis of the amendments is based on the following assumptions:

- Funds and personnel are available for implementation.
- Impacts will be monitored and adjusted as necessary.
- Minor adjustments in management may occur.
- Baseline data are accurate.

Within each amendment analysis, the discussion is organized by resource. Only those resources affected are discussed. A resource that is not expected to be affected is not addressed. Except where specifically noted, no impacts on air quality are anticipated.

Specific Impacts

AMENDMENT ONE:

ACEC BOUNDARIES AND MANAGEMENT

A. EUREKA DUNES

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Enlargement of the ACEC to include two sand areas west of the dunes will aid in protection of sensitive vegetation and fulfill BLM's obligation under the Endangered Species Act. The additional areas are habitat for two federally-listed endangered plant species, the Eureka Dunes Evening Primrose (Oenothera avita ssp. eurekensis) and Eureka Valley Dune Grass (Swallenia alexandrae), and the species Shining Locoweed (Astragalus lentiginos var. micans) which is under review for listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The expanded ACEC lies within the portion of WSA 117 which has been recommended for wilderness status. ACEC status will give the added areas immediate protection for sensitive resources which are presently subject only to interim wilderness management.

ACEC status and management will protect wildlife and cultural resources which are likely to exist in the new, still uninventoried, areas.

Recreation should not be affected by the proposed action. Motorized vehicle access is limited to the South Eureka Road, about one mile away from the closest sand area. Mineral extraction will also be unaffected.

The proposed action is compatible with the General Plan of the County of Inyo, which classifies the subject area as an Environmental Resource Area. The goal of this classification is to protect the most important and critical environmental resources.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment

Sensitive resources, particularly the endangered plant species, would remain under the protection of wilderness interim management until a Congressional decision is reached on designation of WSA 117 but would lack additional ACEC protection.

B. DARWIN FALLS

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Wildlife

The revised ACEC boundary would encompass two important water sources, China Garden Spring and Millers Spring. Intensive protective management of these springs will further the goal of this ACEC to protect and prevent degradation of wildlife habitat. Darwin Canyon contains exceptional aquatic and riparian habitat and supports abundant and diverse wildlife. This habitat will be protected by prevention of indiscriminate camping nearby and by monitoring of the effects of water pumping by the Quintana Mineral Company.

Recreation

Acceptance of the proposal should have no effect on recreation. Existing regulations by the State Department of Fish and Game prohibit camping within 200 yards of the springs. ACEC Management will not change this restriction. Outstanding scenic resources downstream of China Garden Springs will now be entirely inside the ACEC and subject to more protective management.

G.E.M

A highly mineralized area surrounding Zinc Hill will be removed from the ACEC and will not be subject to mineral withdrawal, which will be considered for the ACEC after the land report and mineral report are completed. However, mineralized areas within the new boundary may be withdrawn, resulting in the potential loss of some mineral output. This area contains five mineral claims, but no oil and gas leases.

Compatibility with Local Plans

The Inyo County General Plan classifies the China Garden Springs as an Environmental Resource Area and designates the remainder of the new area as Natural Resource Lands (similar to the BLM Desert District's Class "M").

Alternative B: Reject Amendment

ACEC boundaries would continue to omit the riparian resources identified in the CDCA plan for protective management. These include China Garden Spring and Millers Spring. Boundaries would still include areas such as Zinc Hill, which are not compatible with the objectives of this ACEC.

C. LAST CHANCE CANYON

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Cultural Resources

Acceptance of the new boundary will permit increased protection of cultural resources, including a rock shelter, a quarry, and temporary campsites. This section of land falls within a recommended wilderness area, WSA 164, but needs added protection from camping, vandalism and ORV activity during the interim period.

Recreation

Most types of recreation will not be affected. The eastern three-fourths of this section was closed to vehicle use by the El Paso Management Framework Plan in 1976 and by the Interim Management Plan, 1976. In spite of this restriction, damage has been occurring to cultural resources. Restriction of camping and the closure of some non-essential trails may have a negative effect on vehicle recreation. However, there are alternative opportunities for these activities in areas adjacent to the ACEC.

Wildlife

Wildlife and vegetation habitat should remain at current levels or improve.

Grazing

The ACEC is part of the Cantil Common Allotment established for sheep grazing. The proposed action should have no effect on range activities.

GEM

The area contains eight mining claims, no oil and gas leases. There should be no conflicts resulting from expansion of the ACEC, since the ACEC does not prohibit mining. All plans of operation will be reviewed for environmental impacts as specified in the Class L guidelines of the CDCA Plan and surface protection regulations 43 CFR 3802 and 43 CFR 3809.

Compatibility with County Plan

The change is in conformance with the Kern County General Plan which classifies this land as "non-jurisdictional."

Alternative B: Reject Amendment

Cultural Resources

Sensitive cultural resources would continue to be damaged by camping, vandalism, and off-road vehicle activity.

D. JAWBONE-BUTTERBRETT

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Grazing/Wildlife

Expansion of the original ACEC boundary to include public land in the Cottonwood Creek and Kelso Valley areas will bring into conformance the borders of the Rudnick Common Grazing Allotment, the ACEC, and the Sierra-Mojave/lehachapi Ecotone Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA). This will enable the Bureau to address the management of grazing and wildlife habitat as a single unit. Guidance for management of riparian areas within the ACEC will be applicable to the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) for the Rudnick Common Allotment, thus aiding in achieving the goal of improving the condition of this allotment. Both wildlife and livestock will benefit from coordination of water management by the grazing permittees, the BLM, and the Dept. of Fish and Game.

Recreation

Inclusion of the new area within the ACEC will not affect recreation. The area is already closed to vehicle entry, except with a permit, by an agreement between the Rudnick Estate Trust and the Bureau. More primitive recreational opportunities will also be unaffected.

Native American Values

Important Native American values located near Cottonwood Creek would be included within the new ACEC boundary. Although these resources have been protected through the vehicle entry agreement, they would gain added recognition as part of the ACEC, one of whose objectives is to protect Native American resources.

GEM

The proposed amendment would not affect mineral exploration or production.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment

Present management would continue. The necessity to draw up an additional habitat management plan for the area not included by the original ACEC boundary would be inconvenient for both the BLM and interested members of the public.

E. SALT CREEK (DUMONT)

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

The land which will be added to the ACEC contains an old adobe structure and several mines and mine shafts, the remnants of gold mining activity during the last century. These structures have historical importance which closely ties in with several sites located within the original ACEC boundary. Acceptance of the amendment will result in more protective management of the additional historical resources, which will complement the cultural resources already present.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment

Rejection of the amendment will allow the historic relics to continue to be subject to existing conditions and to lack the special attention provided by ACEC management.

F. UPPER JOHNSON VALLEY YUCCA RINGS

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Botany

This change will provide added protection to an unusual plant assemblage, the Mojave Yucca clones. The revised boundaries will enclose an extremely dense stand of Mojave yucca, ranging from individual single-stemmed plants to much larger clonal groups. The largest and presumably oldest living yucca clone here has been estimated to be approximately 2,250 years old.

The flatness of the landscape made the original boundaries almost undefinable on the ground. The revised boundary can be defined legally, so that monitoring of the plants can be done more effectively. Some small, select groups of yucca rings will be fenced, and interpretive signs will be placed to inform recreationists about the unique resource.

Recreation

This area is classified as Multiple Use Class I (intensive) and is open to motorized vehicular "free play." The proposed change in ACEC boundary will not affect recreational opportunities. The ACEC Management Plan will provide for continued motorized vehicle recreation, while directing use away from yucca stands through signing, some fencing, and cooperative planning with organized groups.

G.E.M.

Mineral exploration and development, and other uses permitted within this area, will not be affected by the boundary revision. All of these uses will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Modifications of proposed actions may be made in certain cases to avoid specific and highly localized clonal rings present within the ACEC.

Compatibility with County Plan

The proposal is compatible with the General Plan of the County of San Bernardino, which classifies this land as a Rural Conservation Area.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment

Botany

Rejection of the proposed change would result in a poorly defined ACEC, hard to manage on-the-ground and lacking some outstanding samples of the vegetative resource (Yucca schidigera) which it is designed to protect.

G. AMARGOSA CANYON/GRIMSHAW LAKE

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Wildlife

Acceptance of the proposal will not affect wildlife or its habitat. The original boundary lines drawn for the Amargosa Canyon/Grimshaw Lake ACEC included not only the critical wetland habitats, but also areas which contain habitats and species characteristic of a much larger portion of the Mojave Desert. During development of the management plans, it became evident that special management attention was needed only in those areas where class guidelines were not sufficient for resource protection.

Although the wildlife resources and management objectives are similar in the two areas, the topography, access, and scenic qualities are different. These factors, along with the disjunct nature of the habitats, argued for management as two separate ACEC's rather than one. The focus in the Grimshaw Lake ACEC is on the pockets of marsh vegetation. In the Amargosa Canyon area, the focus is on the river itself, with adjacent wetland vegetation, and on high scenic quality resulting from contrasting canyon colors and rugged contours.

Recreation

Although recreation opportunities are similar in both areas in that they are non-motorized and day-use, there are differences in recreation use. The Grimshaw Lake area is visible and fairly accessible from major roads in the Tecopa/Tecopa Hot Springs vicinity. Amargosa Canyon, on the other hand, is relatively inaccessible and remote. Recreation users who would drive around the outskirts of the Grimshaw Lake ACEC to bird watch may or may not be the same as those who would seek out the legal access to the Amargosa Canyon and hike for perhaps miles to observe birds or wildlife.

The Dumont Dunes Cooperative Management Agreement (CMA) between the Bureau and the National Outdoor Coalition (NOC) does not apply to or have any effect on the Amargosa Canyon or the Grimshaw Lake ACECs. Grimshaw Lake ACEC is adjacent to but outside of the boundary of the CMA area. Amargosa Canyon ACEC, although within the boundaries of the CMA area, is specifically excluded from coverage or involvement under the CMA. NOC may assist BLM in implementing management actions within the ACEC as mutually agreed upon, and any management prescriptions developed under the CMA should be consistent with and complimentary to those already in place in the ACEC.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment

The original boundaries of the ACEC, as described in the Desert Plan, would be retained. Retention of these boundaries, however, will not enhance management opportunities for wildlife and botanical resources of special importance and might, in fact, diffuse management efforts to their detriment.

H. WHITEWATER CANYON

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Wildlife

The area proposed for addition to the ACEC is part of the winter range of a herd of 70-90 bighorn sheep. The range extends into the San Geronio Wilderness Area which is managed by the National Forest Service. ACEC designation would provide the BLM with a mechanism for increased cooperation with the adjacent San Geronio National Forest and resulting benefit to the bighorn.

Native American Values

This is an area of general significance to Cahuilla peoples, containing agave collection areas, trails, occupation sites and ritual sites. Sections 19 and 29 (T 1 S, R 3 E, SBMM) are privately owned, and development has been proposed for sections just to the south. A goal of the ACEC Management Plan is to acquire this land, or if that is not possible, to develop cooperative agreements in key areas. ACEC management could be beneficial to Native American concerns by providing protective management for sections of land which are presently subject to pressures for private development. Regular contact with Native American groups will ensure that the management of these lands is responsive to their concerns.

Recreation

There would be no negative effects on recreation use. Present minimal use levels would continue.

Livestock Grazing

The area under consideration is part of the Whitewater Canyon Allotment. The proposed action should have no effect on grazing.

GEM

There has been no mining activity in the expansion area and there are no existing claims. The proposed action should have no effect on mineral exploration or production.

Compatibility with County Plan

The proposed action is in conformance with the General Plan of the County of San Bernardino, which classifies this area as Rural Conservation.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment

Wildlife

Rejection of the expansion could be detrimental to management of the bighorn sheep herd which uses the proposed expansion area as winter range. The advantages of ACEC management would be lacking, and at some time in the future, development plans could be detrimental to the bighorn.

Native American Values

Without the projected cooperative management of private lands in the expansion area, sites of high significance to Native Americans could be subject to damage.

I. BIG MORONGO CANYON

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Wildlife

The proposed expansion of the ACEC would benefit a herd of bighorn sheep which range in the summer in the northern part of the ACEC. Recreational vehicle use of an extensive system of unauthorized trails bordering the original northern and western boundaries currently disturbs the bighorn range. Some of the vehicle trails are either equal or higher in elevation than those areas used by the bighorn. It is important that the bighorn be provided the means to escape human intrusion through their inherent behavior of moving to a higher point of elevation than the danger source. Road proliferation is forcing the bighorn into a smaller area over time, which affects the viability of the herd. Expanding the ACEC at this location would permit control of vehicle access.

Recreation

Compatible uses which do not degrade wildlife habitat, including hiking, horse-back riding, picnicking, bird watching, nature photography, research, and educational activities, will be unaffected by the proposed change. Unauthorized motorized vehicle use will be controlled through the use of gates, signs, and ranger patrol.

Compatibility with County Plan

The proposed action is consistent with the General Plan of the County of San Bernardino which classifies the subject area as Rural Conservation.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment

Recreation vehicles would continue to encroach further and further on the summer range of the desert bighorn sheep herd which utilizes the Big Morongo Canyon watershed. This deterioration of suitable range would eventually result in a reduction in the number of bighorn in this area.

scientific data recovery is the more appropriate method of mitigation. Failure to use one of these procedures would result in cultural resource impacts. Direct impacts would include breakage of artifacts, vertical and horizontal displacement of artifacts, and a loss of depositional association. Indirect impacts include increased erosion of site surfaces, and threats of vandalism or inadvertant impacts through increased public access to the project area.

As noted above, an environmental impact assessment would be completed prior to approval of any construction within the corridor. It would include coordination with Native American groups, and complete inventory and evaluation of resources in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer and in accordance with federal statutes.

Visual Resources

Construction of transmission lines will not significantly change the mass or shape (form) or the interplay of light and shadows (texture) of the landform vegetation, or sturctures within the viewshed. Any small changes will be subordinate to the existing landscape.

The denudation, or devegetation, of service roads would slightly impact the visual lines followed by the eye in observing the landscape. Scarification of the service road corridor would also have a slight effect on landform and vegetation by creating flecks of grey-white on the landscape. Utilization of existing road rights-of-way for corridor maintenance wherever practical would mitigate this effect.

AMENDMENT FIVE: GRAZING ELEMENT WORDING CHANGE

The revised wording requires that preference be determined on the basis of "range surveys, monitoring, and known conditions of forage productivity." However, Interior Department policy now forbids the allocation of forage based on range survey data. As a result, monitoring would remain the only one of the criteria proposed by the amendment which could be used to make adjustments in preference. This represents no change from present management under the Desert Plan, which emphasizes monitoring as the means for future adjustments.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment

The Desert Plan presently states that "since no adjustment was made for the above-average rainfall received during the survey period, capacity estimates should be considered high in most areas." The dates at which the multistage vegetation inventory was conducted, when considered together with the rainfall records for locations in the north Mojave (see page 3-6), indicate that no information exists which fundamentally refutes the statement in the plan. Therefore, keeping the present wording would not necessarily result in an erroneous conclusion remainng in the plan. The present emphasis of the Desert Plan on monitoring as the "basis for future adjustments" (p. 69) would continue.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Table 4-1 presents the cumulative impacts of the preferred alternative.

TABLE 4-1
SUMMARY OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Resource	Unit of Measure	No Action	Preferred Alternative	Percent Change
<u>Motorized Vehicle Access</u>				
Limited	Acres	9,286,000	9,289,700	+0.04
Closed	Acres	1,996,000	1,992,300	-0.18
<u>ACEC's</u>				
Added	Number	0	1	
	Acres	0	22,095	
Deleted	Number	0	0	
	Acres	0	12,064	
Net Change	Number	0	+1	
	Acres	0	+10,031	

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

CHAPTER V

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Notices and Meetings

The 1984 Amendment Process was announced at the Desert Advisory Council (DAC) meeting in El Centro, California on March 8, 1984. With the concurrence of the Council, it was decided to limit the number of proposals accepted for consideration to those for which there was an absolute immediate need. The reason for this limitation was the concurrent evaluation of the condition of the Desert and the effects of managing it under the guidelines of the California Desert Plan.

An invitation for proposals was sent on April 13 to the Desert Plan mailing list of about 6,200 individuals, organizations, and agencies. It listed the criteria for evaluating amendment proposals and the final date for public input, May 15, 1984. Federal Register Notices were published on February 6 (Vol. 49, No. 25) and April 19, 1984 (Vol. 49, No. 77).

Proposed amendments were reviewed by the DAC at the public meeting in Barstow, California on May 17, 1984. This meeting, which also served as a scoping meeting for the Environmental Assessment (EA), was announced in the Federal Register on April 17, 1984 and in a news release issued on May 11, 1984.

Public Input

Sixteen letters were received in response to the invitation for amendment proposals. Six were from individuals, 7 from organizations, and 3 from governmental agencies. All except one came from California; the exception was from Arizona.

Thirteen respondents offered 26 proposals. Only two of these were recommended by the District Advisory Council and approved by BLM management for consideration in the 1984 amendment process. The remainder will be deferred for later consideration or dropped as inappropriate. Each amendment proposal and its fate is listed in Appendix B.

LIST OF PREPARERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Team Assignment (Amend. No.)</u>
Irene Rice	Environmental Specialist	California Desert District	Team Leader
Clara Stapp	Illustrator	California Desert District	Graphics
Dora Faircloth	Typist	Calif. Desert District	Administrative Support
Donald Banks	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Indio R.A.	Recreation (2)
Faye Davis	Wildlife Biologist	Indio R.A.	Wildlife (2) Wind Energy (2)
Al Endo	Air, Soil, Water Specialist	California Desert Dist.	Water/precipitation analysis (5)
Peter Ertman	Chief, Resource Programs Staff	El Centro R.A.	Geology - (1k, 11)
Robin Kobaly	Botany	Indio R.A.	Botany (2)
Stephen Larson	Range Conservationist	El Centro R.A.	Livestock Grazing (5)
Garth Portillo	Archaeologist	Calif. Desert District	Cultural Resources (4)
Ted Rado	Wildlife Biologist	Barstow R.A.	Wildlife (1g)
Judyth Reed	Archaeologist	Indio R.A.	Cultural Resources (2)
Robert Schneider	Chief, Resource Protection Staff	Needles R.A.	All resources (3)
Pat Welch	Archaeologist	El Centro R.A.	Cultural Resources (1k, 11, 1m)
Stan Zuber	Recreation Planner	Ridgecrest R.A.	Visual Resources (4)

GLOSSARY

Terms

ALLOTMENT: An area of land where one or more operators graze their livestock. It generally consists of public lands, but may include parcels of private or state-owned lands. The number of livestock and period of use are stipulated for each allotment. An allotment may consist of several pastures or be only one pasture.

ANIMAL UNIT MONTH (AUM): (1) The amount of forage or feed required by an animal unit (i.e., one mature 1000-lb. cow or five sheep) for one month. (2) Tenure of one animal-unit for one month.

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC): Areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

CALIFORNIA DESERT PLAN ELEMENT: A component of the California Desert Plan. Each element provides a more specific application of the multiple-use class guidelines for a specific resource or activity (such as wildlife or wilderness).

CHERRYSTEM: Fingerlike intrusions into a wilderness study area which are not themselves part of the WSA (for example, an access road).

CLOSED AREA: No vehicle travel is allowed in these areas. It applies to all wilderness areas when established by Congress unless exempted and where provided for by management plans in ACECs and on certain sand dunes and dry lakes.

COLOR: The property of reflecting light of a particular wavelength that enables the eye to differentiate otherwise unidentifiable objects.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: Those fragile and nonrenewable remains of human activity, occupation, or endeavor, which are reflected in district sites, structures, buildings, objects, artifacts, ruins, works of art, architecture or natural features.

FLPMA: The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-579, 90 Stat 2743, 43 USC 1701).

FORM: The mass or shape of an object or objects which appear unified, such as in the shape of the land surface or patterns placed on the landscape.

GEOGLYPHS: Designs on the ground surface. They can be found in three forms: one is a linear alignment of stones; the second is a design scraped into the soil surface (inlaglios); the third can be either abstract forms, or representational figures.

HABITAT: The natural environment of a plant or animal.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN: Detailed plans developed specifically for wildlife habitats or species which require intensive, active management programs.

INTERIM MANAGEMENT POLICY (IMP): The Bureau's management policy for lands under wilderness review. The policy is to continue resource use on lands under wilderness review in a manner that maintains the area's suitability for preservation as wilderness (referred to as the "non-impairment standard").

LINE: The path, real or imagined, that the eye follows when perceiving abrupt differences in form, color or texture. Within landscapes, lines may be found as ridges, skylines, structures, changes in vegetative types, or individual trees and branches.

MULTIPLE-USE CLASS: Public lands in the California Desert have been placed in one of four management classes (except for 300,000 "unclassified" acres). Class C includes those lands recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. Class L provides for generally lower-intensity management. Class M provides a balance between higher intensity use and protection of public lands. Class I is an intensive-use zone.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: The official list, established by the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, of the nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV): Any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other terrain.

OPEN AREA: An area in which motorized vehicles may travel anywhere. It applies to those areas in Class I specifically designated "open" and to certain sand dunes and dry lakebeds.

PREFERENCE: Grazing privileges established following the passage of the Taylor Grazing Act, based on the use of the Federal range during the priority period. The active preference and suspended preference together make up the total grazing preference.

PUBLIC LAND: Land administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Nonmotorized and nondeveloped types of outdoor recreational activities.

ROCKSHELTERS: Small rock overhangs or caves usually found in mountainous areas. Some contain perishables.

ROCK ART/ROCK ALIGNMENTS: Rock art, including pictographs and petroglyphs, stove circles and rock walls.

SALABLE MINERALS: Minerals such as common varieties of sand, stone, gravel, cinders, pumice, pumicite and clay that may be acquired under the Materials Act of 1947, as amended.

TEXTURE: The interplay of light and shadow created by the variation in the surface of an object; the visual result of the tactile surface characteristics.

UNUSUAL PLANT ASSEMBLAGES (UPA): Stands of vegetation within the CDCA which can be recognized as extraordinary for one or more factors. Factors can include unusual age, size, high cover or density, or separation from main centers of distribution.

VISUAL RESOURCE (SCENIC VALUES): The land, water, vegetative, animal, and other features that are visible on all lands.

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: The planning, design, and implementation of visual resource management classes for all BLM resource management activities.

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CLASS: The degree of visual change that is acceptable within the characteristic landscape. The classes are based upon the physical and sociological characteristics of any given homogeneous area. Classes range from VRM Class I (least degree of alteration permitted) to Class IV (largest degree of alteration permitted).

WILDERNESS AREA: (1) An area formally designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. (2) An area formally designated as part of the State of California's Wilderness Preservation System.

WILDERNESS NON-SUITABILITY: A management recommendation, based on the application of wilderness suitability criteria, that the best use of resources comprising a Wilderness Study Area would be met without designation of the WSA as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, permitting uses which might not necessarily be comparable with wilderness values.

WILDERNESS SUITABILITY: A management recommendation, based on the application of wilderness suitability criteria, that the best use of the resources comprising a Wilderness Study Area would be designation of the WSA as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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- 1982 A Sikes Act Management Plan for the Eureka Valley Dunes Area of Critical Environmental Concern and the Eureka Dunes Wildlife Habitat Management Area, BLM California Desert District, Ridgecrest Resource Area, and State of California Department of Fish and Game.
- 1982 A Sikes Act Management Plan for the Darwin Falls/Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern, BLM Desert District, Ridgecrest Resource Area and State of California Department of Fish and Game.
- 1982 A Sikes Act Management Plan for the Jawbone-Butterbrecht Area of Critical Environmental Concern and the Sierra-Mojave-Tehachapi Ecotone Wildlife Habitat Management Area, BLM Desert District, Ridgecrest Resource Area and State of California Department of Fish and Game.
- 1982 Last Chance Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern Management Plan and Environmental Assessment, BLM Desert District, Ridgecrest Resource Area and State of California Department of Fish and Game.
- 1982 Management Plan for Salt Creek Hills Area of Critical Environmental Concern, BLM Desert District, Barstow Resource Area.
- 1982 Management Plan for the Upper Johnson Valley Yucca Rings Preserve, An Area of Critical Environmental Concern, BLM Desert District, Barstow Resource Resource Area, Barstow, California.
- 1982 Management Plan for Whitewater Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern, BLM Desert District, Indio Resource Area, Riverside, California.

U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (continued)

- 1982 Management Plan for Big Morongo Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern, BLM Desert District, Indio Resource Area, Riverside, California.
- 1982 Management Plan for Salt Creek Desert Pupfish/Rail Habitat Area of Critical Environmental Concern, BLM Desert District, Indio Resource Area, Riverside, California.
- 1982 Management Plan and Environmental Assessment for Pilot Knob Area of Critical Environmental Concern, BLM Desert District, El Centro Resource Area, El Centro, California.
- 1983 Management Plan for Amargosa Canyon Natural Area, an Area of Critical Environmental Concern, BLM Desert District, Barstow Resource Area and State of California Department of Fish and Game.
- 1983 Management Plan for Grimshaw Lake Natural Area, An Area of Critical Environmental Concern, BLM Desert District, Barstow Resource Area, and State of California Department of Fish and Game.
- 1983 Management Plan for Lake Cahuilla Area of Critical Environmental Concern (Includes ACEC 65, 66, 69, 71), BLM Desert District, El Centro Resource Area, El Centro, California
- 1983 East Highline Canal Sand and Gravel Extraction Management Plan and Environmental Assessment, BLM Desert District, El Centro Resource Area, El Centro, California.
- 1982 BLM Policy on Conserving Rare, Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Plants on Public Lands in California, Instruction Memo No. CA-83-49, 11-03-82, Sacramento, California.
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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A
MAPS OF AMENDMENTS

Distribution of Rare Plant Species in Eureka Valley



Swallenia alexandrae



Oenothera avita ssp.
eurekaensis



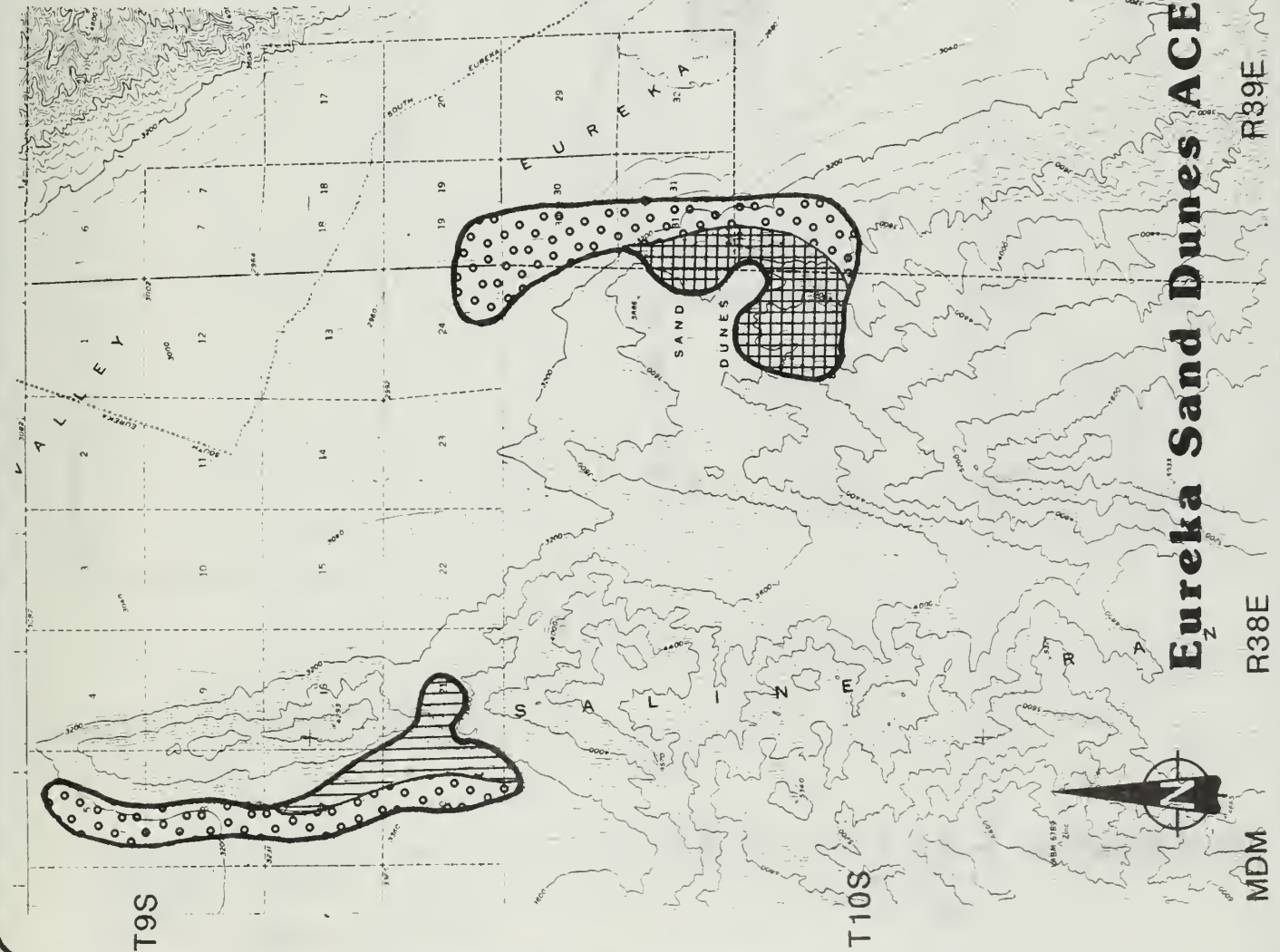
Astragalus letiginosus
var. *micans*



Original ACEC boundary



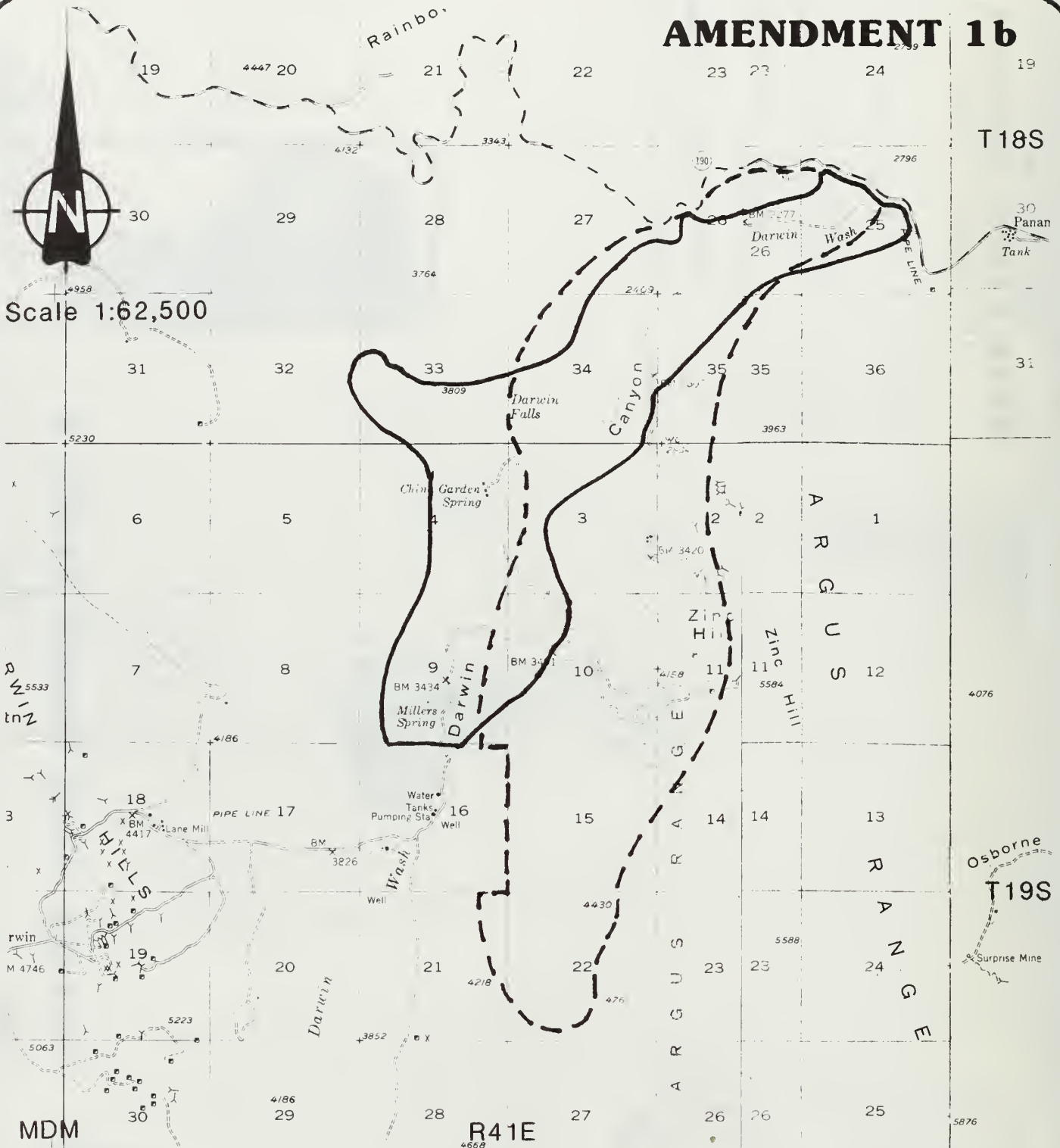
Additional ACEC boundary



AMENDMENT 1a

Eureka Sand Dunes ACEC 3

AMENDMENT 1b



DARWIN FALLS/CANYON ACEC 6



**Last Chance Range
ACEC 21**

- ACEC boundary
- Proposed ACEC extension

JAWBONE-BUTTERBREAD ACEC 20

AMENDMENT 1d

Original ACEC boundary



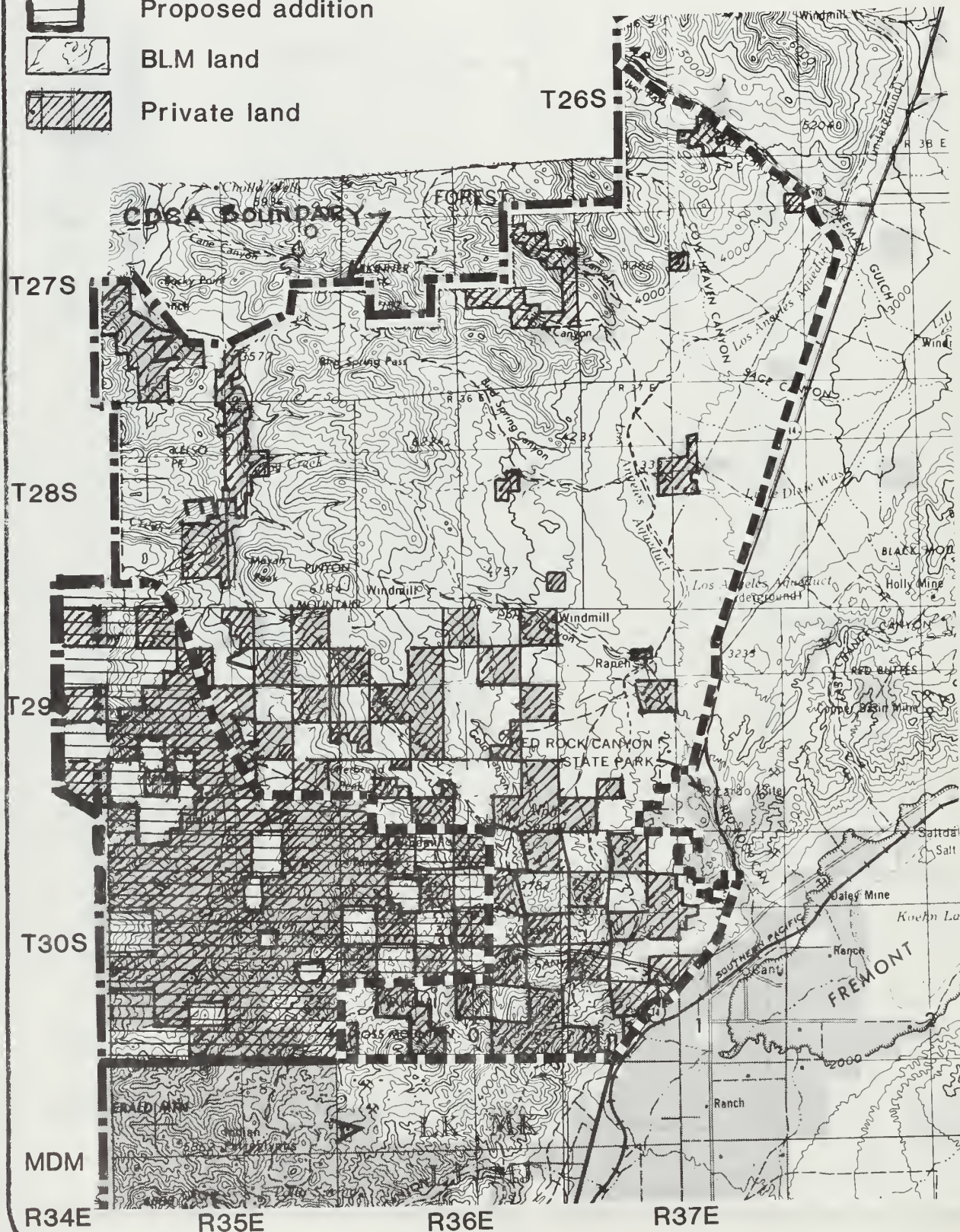
Proposed addition



BLM land



Private land



Scale
1:250,000

T19N

AMENDMENT 1e

34

35

36

31

32

33

3

2

1

6

10

11

12

DUNMONT DUNES

HILLS

DUMONT

SAND



Scale 1:62,500

15

14

13

16

15

14

T18N

22

23

24

20

20

21

22

23

27

26

29

29

28

27

26

SBM
R6E

SALT CREEK ACEC 18



Original boundary

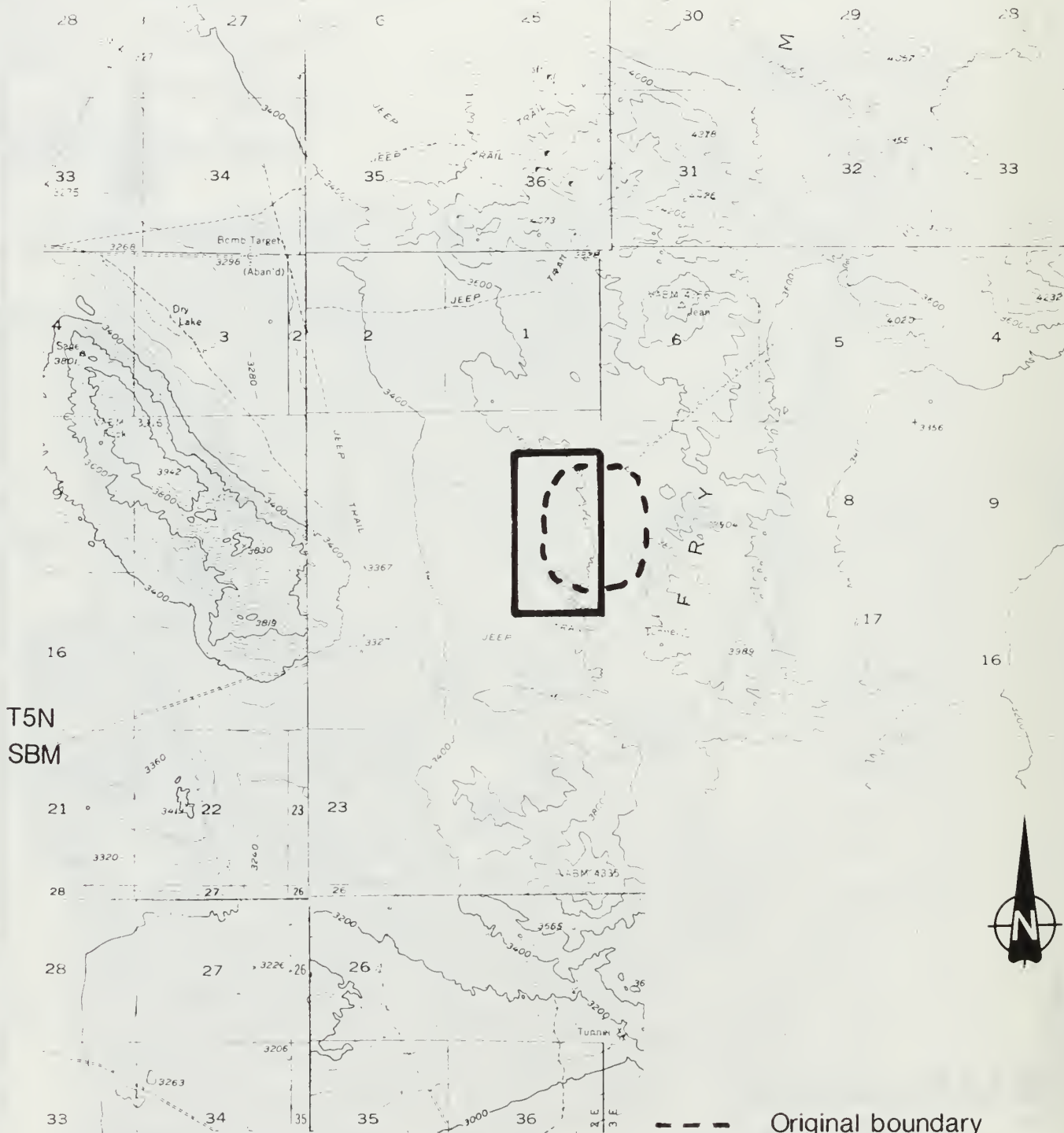


Amended boundary

R2E

AMENDMENT 1f

R3E



Upper Johnson Valley

Yucca Rings

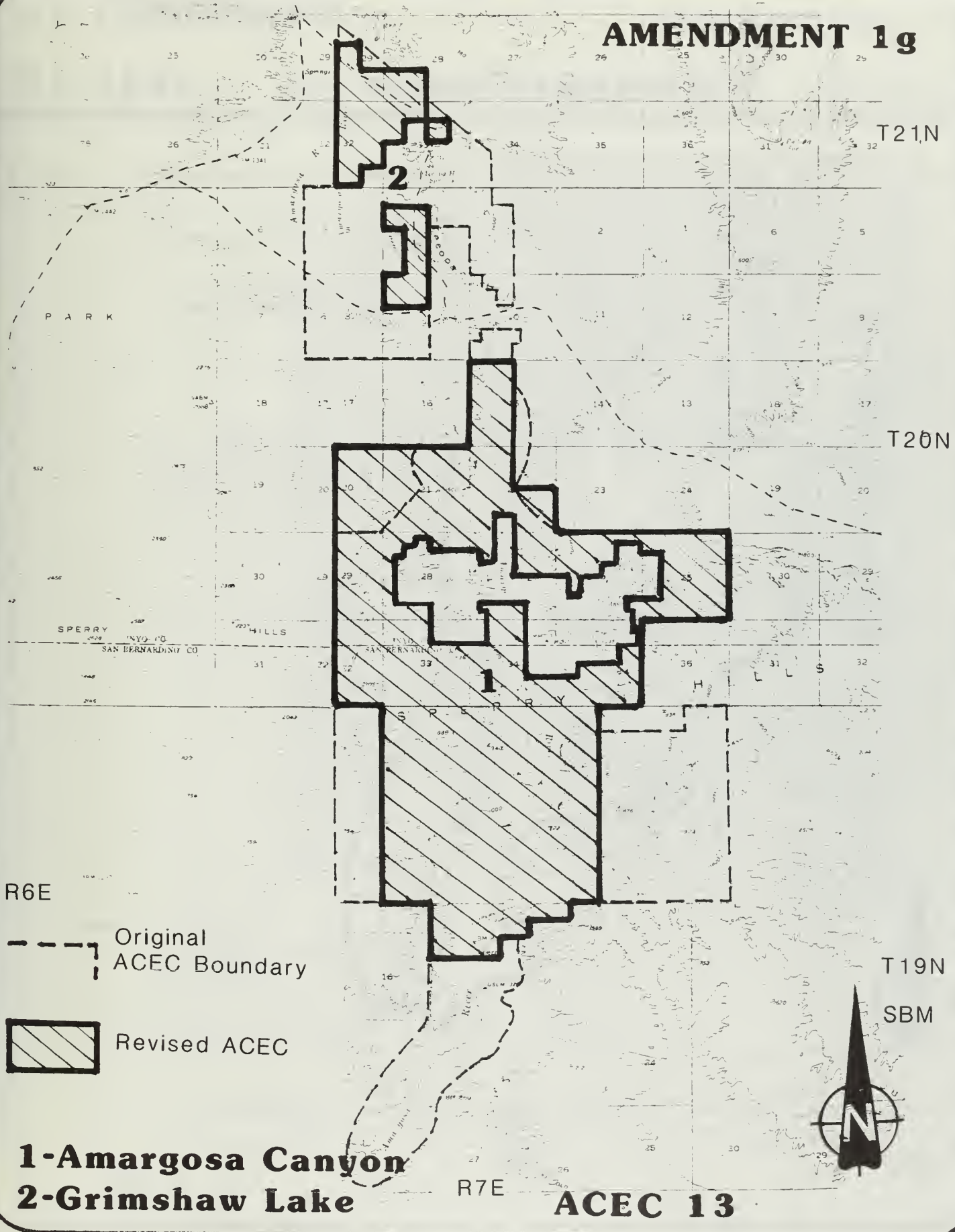
ACEC 46

Original boundary

 Amended boundary




AMENDMENT 1g



R6E

--- Original
ACEC Boundary

 Revised ACEC

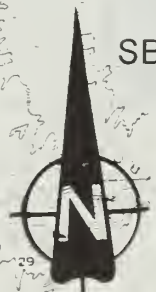
1-Amargosa Canyon
2-Grimshaw Lake

R7E

ACEC 13

T19N

SBM



ACEC 49



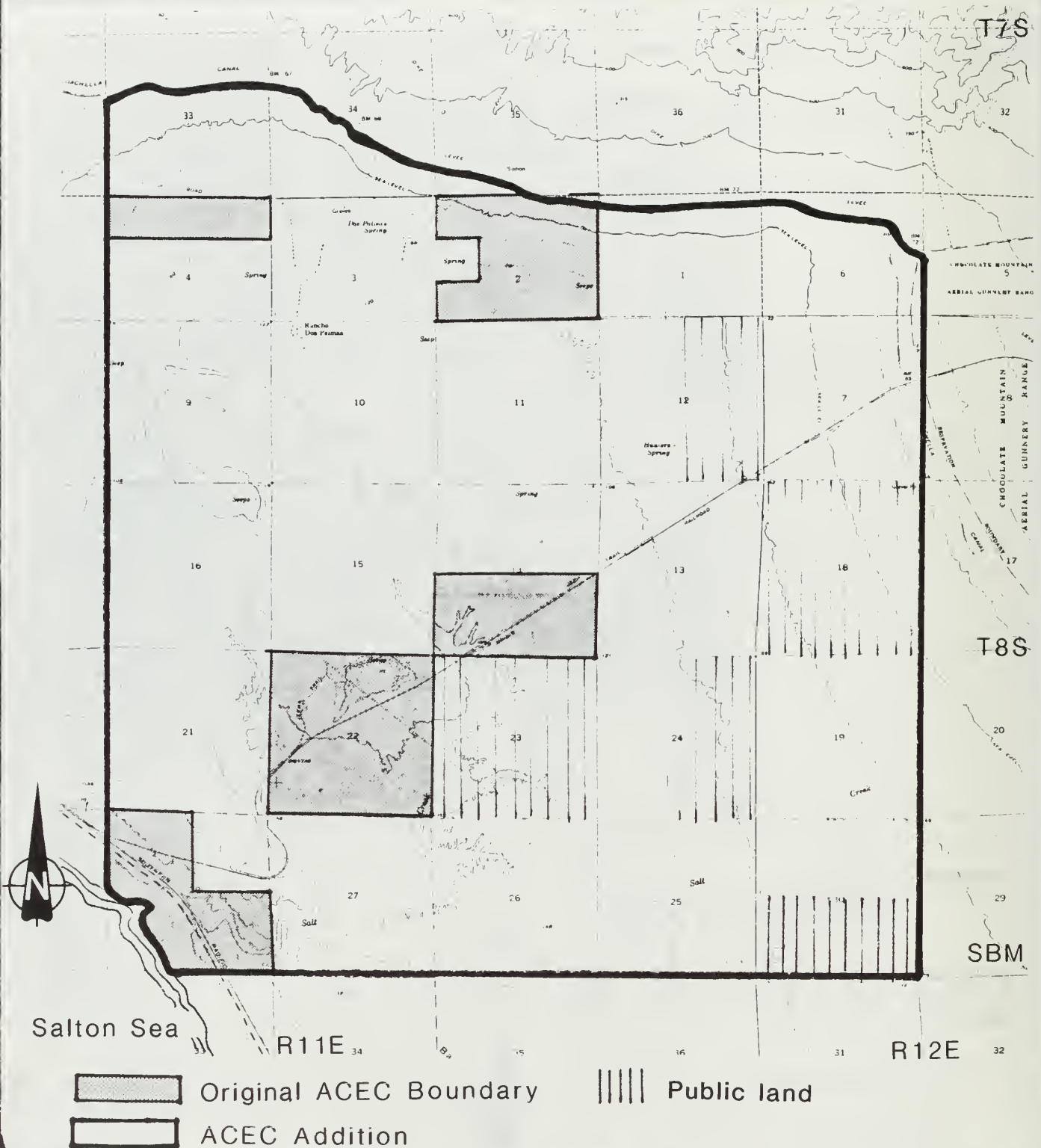
ACEC 50



Salt Creek Pupfish/Rail Habitat

AMENDMENT 1j

ACEC 60

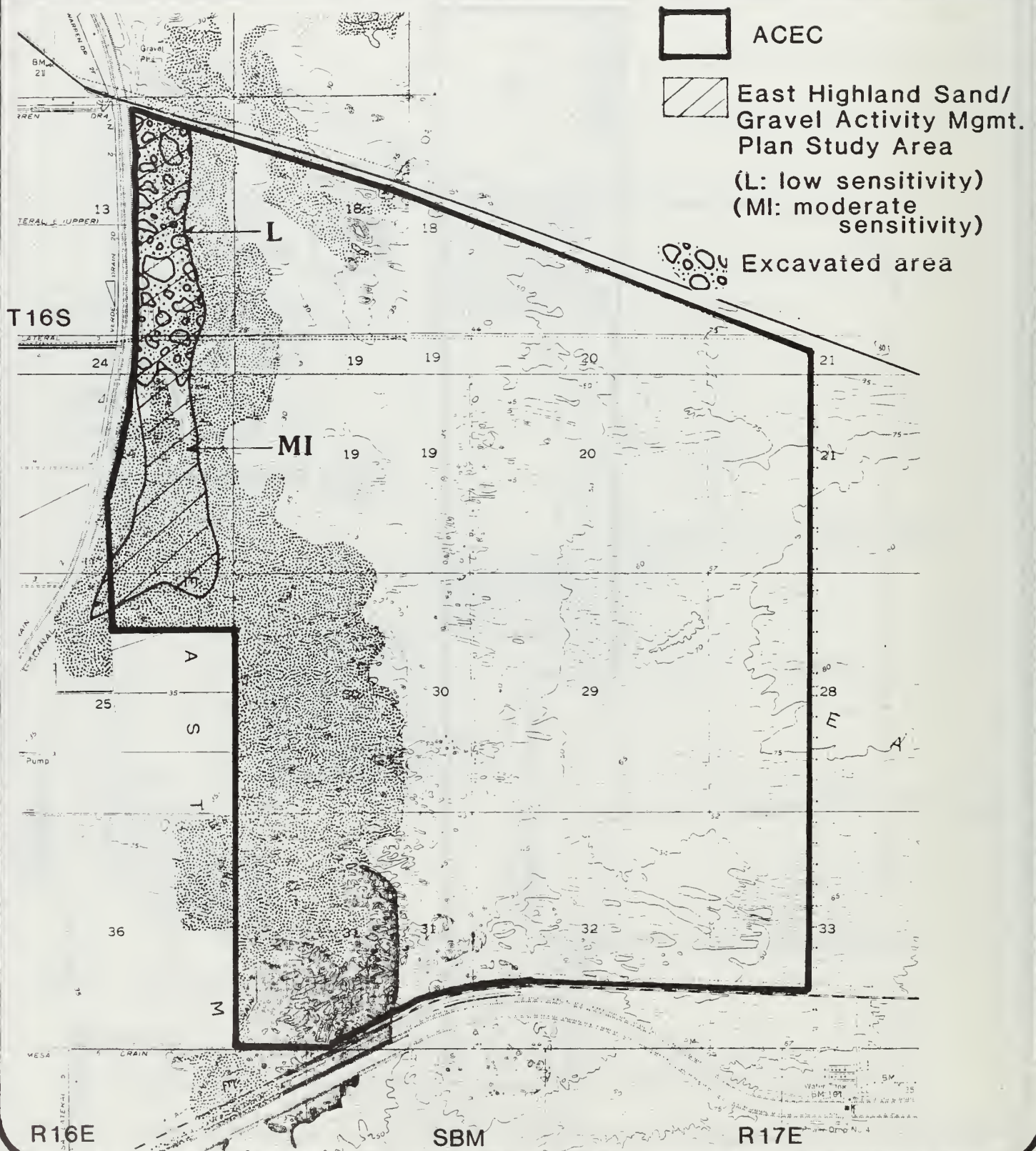


ACEC 65

Lake Cahuilla No.5 (East Mesa)

AMENDMENT 1-1

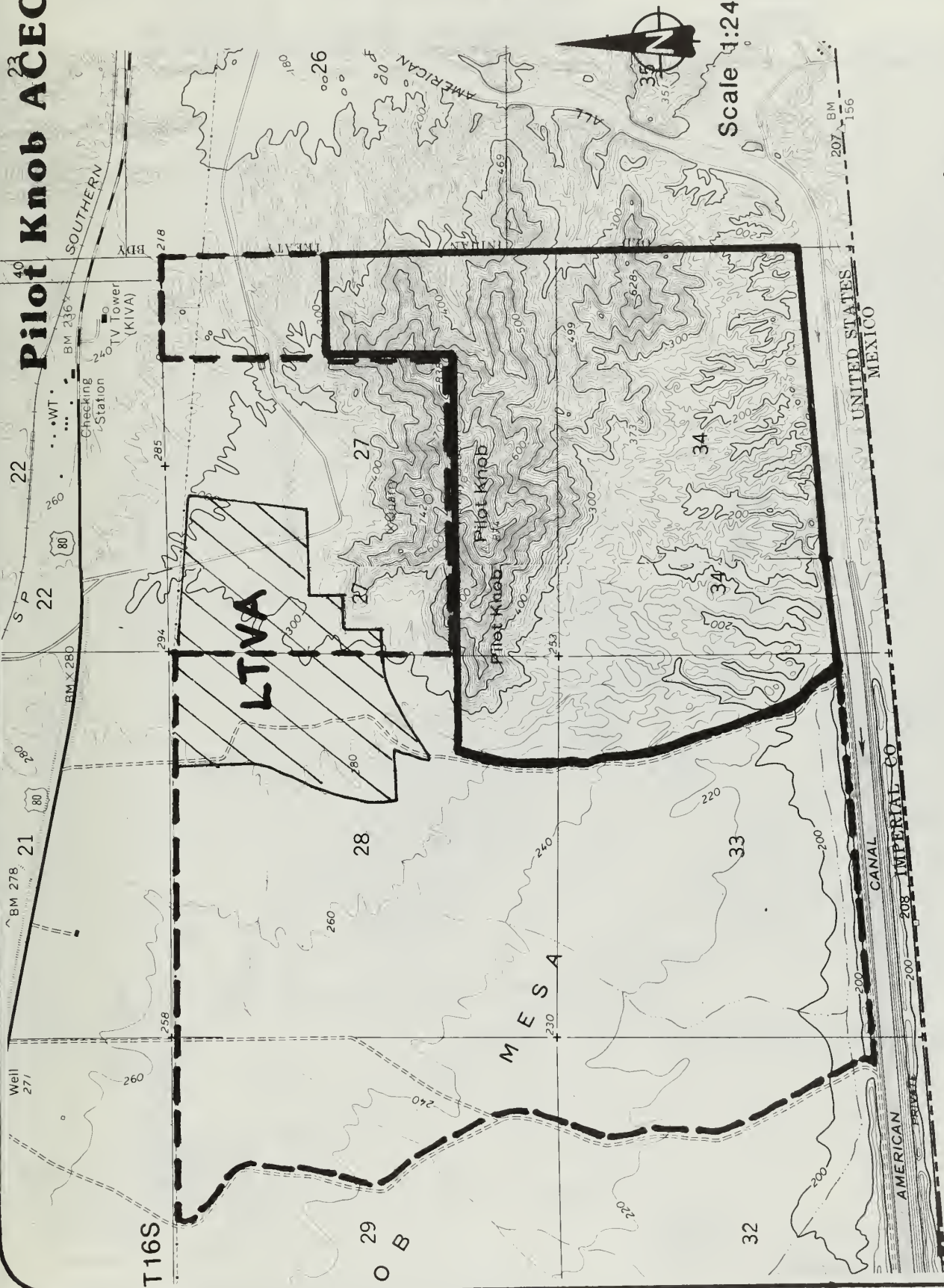
ACEC 69



Pilot Knob AČEC 73

AMENDMENT 1m

Scale 1:24,000



Original boundary

Proposed amended boundary

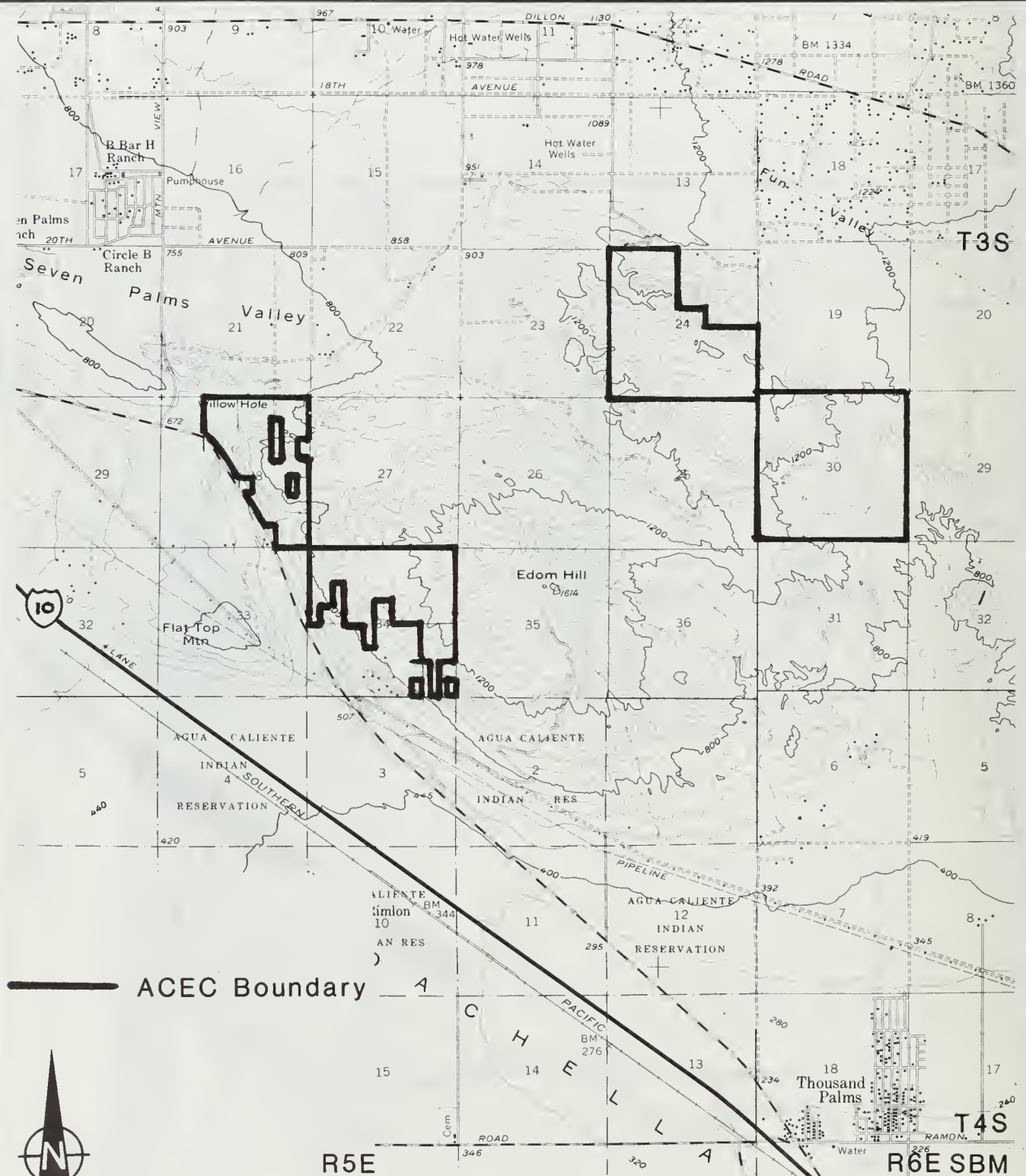
LTVA/Long-Term Visitor Area

R21E

SBM

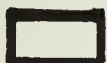
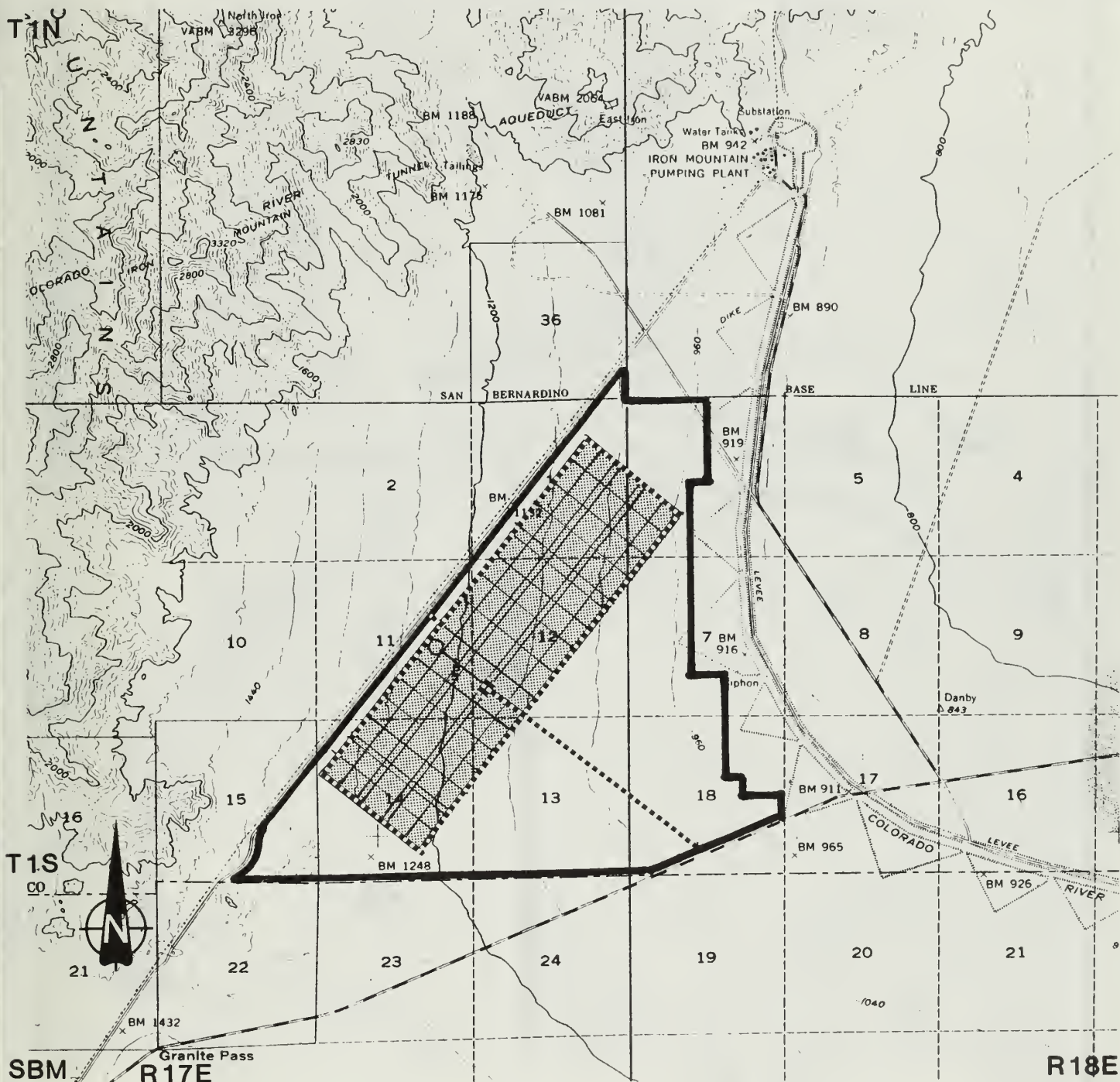
AMENDMENT 2

Willow Hole/Edom Hill ACEC

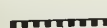


Patton's Iron Mountain Divisional Camp

AMENDMENT 3 ACEC 52



ACEC boundary



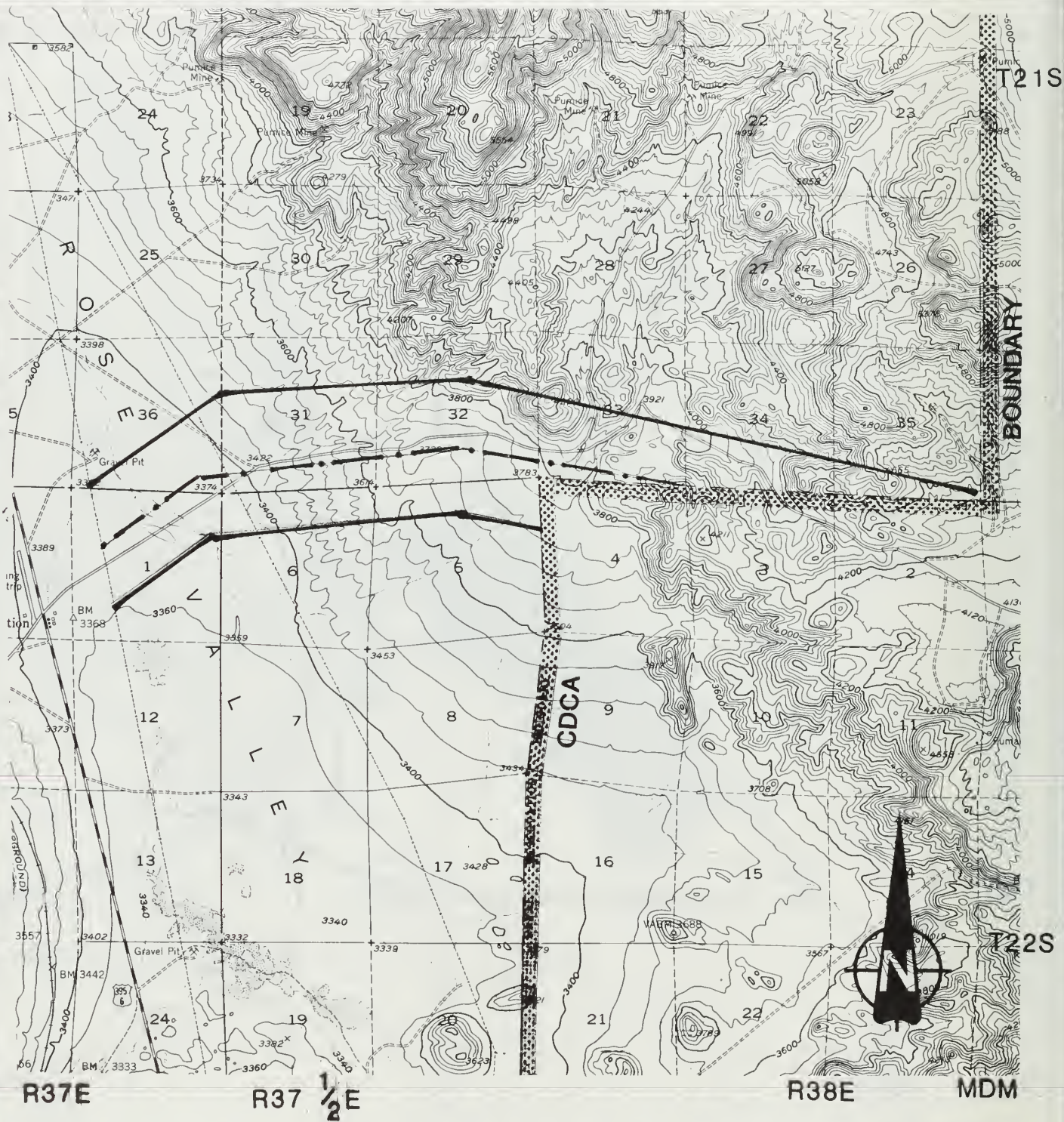
Proposed/Approved routes
of travel



Enclosed/Fenced area
of Iron Mtn Divisional
Camp

AMENDMENT 4

POWERLINE CORRIDOR



APPENDIX B
AMENDMENTS NOT CONSIDERED

TABLE B-1
AMENDMENTS NOT ACCEPTED FOR CONSIDERATION IN 1984
Amendments Deferred

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Remarks
	<u>Desert Wide</u>		
83-P-12	AMENDMENT: Require joint use, or clustering, of microwave communication sites. (Peter Burk - Citizens for Mojave National Park)	RATIONALE: BLM has no districtwide policy to meet the rash of requests for communication sites which are a result of the breakup of AT&T. The proposed repeater tower (MCI) atop Marl Mtn. will irreparably damage the scenic value of the EMNSA (on private land). BLM needs guidelines to prevent such abuses to surrounding public lands. The relevant public agencies seem to be uncaring about protecting public interests.	We are considering a major expansion of the utilities element in the 1985 amendment process to deal with this problem.
	<u>Wilderness</u>		
83-P-7	AMENDMENT: Change WSA 265 (New York Mtns) from non-suitable to suitable. (Sierra Club).	RATIONALE: The New York Mountains contain exceptional wildlife and vegetative resources. New data shows that there are no large commercial mineral deposits there.	Does not meet criteria. No absolute need to decide prior to May 1985.
84-P-21	AMENDMENT: Change designation in Granite Mountains from Class "C" to Class "C-limited access." Establish a primitive formal campground. Close area to ORVs. (Patrick Kelly, Chino)	RATIONALE: Area is a popular base camp for climbers, hikers, etc. Require waste disposal facilities. Should ban hunting and ORV activity.	The concept of a "Class C-limited access" designation will be considered in 1985.
	<u>ACECs and Special Areas</u>		
84-P-2	AMENDMENT: Saline Valley ACEC (No. 4) Extend boundary (ELM, Ridgecrest R.A.)	RATIONALE: Include significant water sources, concentrated recreational use, and cultural resource values. Additional management is needed to reduce existing conflicts between recreationists and resource values.	Does not meet criteria. No absolute need to decide prior to May 1985.

TABLE B-1
AMENDMENTS NOT ACCEPTED FOR CONSIDERATION IN 1984
Amendments Deferred

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment ACECs and Special Areas (Con't)	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Remarks
84-P-5	AMENDMENT: Establish an ACEC for Cima Dome Joshua tree forest. (Ecol. Ctr. So. Calif.)	RATIONALE: This is the world's largest and densest Joshua tree forest. It has no protection under the CDCA Plan. By establishing an ACEC here, a management plan would exist for its protection; unlike the forests in Antelope Valley, Victor Valley, and Morongo Valley, whose Joshua trees are being obliterated by urbanization.	National Landmark status removed after Desert Plan was completed.
84-P-25	AMENDMENT: Change all of the unclassified (Class U) lands in the East Mojave Scenic Area to Class "L" (limited use). (Joyce Burk)	RATIONALE: Retention of public lands within the EMNSA is necessary to the integrity of the area. BLM should do the planning for the EMNSA, not the San Bernardino County Planning Dept. If BLM disposes of the Class U lands, the County may approve of short range projects on a case-by-case basis, without planning for the integrity of the entire EMNSA.	Does not meet criteria. No absolute need to decide prior to May 1985.
	<u>Livestock Grazing</u>		
84-P-9	AMENDMENT: Change the boundary of the Ford Dry Lake Allotment to exclude the area south of Interstate 10 and expand the allotment in suitable areas north of I-10 to compensate for the area lost south of the freeway. The expanded area should extend no closer than one mile to the perimeter of the Palen and McCoy mountain ranges. (Cal. Fish and Game)	RATIONALE: The change would provide a more enforceable boundary between domestic sheep and wildlife, eliminate forage competition for transmittal of disease between these species, and eliminate forage competition between desert tortoises and domestic sheep.	Does not meet criteria. No absolute need to decide prior to May 1985.

TABLE B-1
AMENDMENTS NOT ACCEPTED FOR CONSIDERATION IN 1984
Amendments Deferred

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Remarks
	<u>Livestock Grazing (Con't)</u>		
84-P-10	AMENDMENT: Request permit to run cattle eight miles south of Cerro Gordo to valley floor on the west side of Inyo Mountains, from Cerro Gordo north to Beveridge Canyon; east to 6000 foot level. (Harold and Ray Carrasco)	RATIONALE: We feel this permit would benefit not only ourselves, but Fish and Game people in the improvement of wildlife habitat, and the County of Inyo and the BLM in increased revenue through license fees, and will also help protect the wildlife in the Inyo's.	Amendment referred to Grazing Board for their consideration and recommendation.
	<u>Multiple Use Class Designation</u>		
84-P-6	AMENDMENT: Change all "Unclassified" lands within the Last Chance Archaeological District to Class "L." (BLM, Ridgecrest RA)	RATIONALE: Except for a small amount of private land, all of the land in the Archaeological District is of either controlled or limited classification. Classifying these remaining areas "L" would make the area more homogeneous for management.	Does not meet criteria. No absolute need to decide prior to May 1985.
84-P-26	AMENDMENT: Reinstate and approve Amendment 83-P-12, reclassification of the Panamint Range. (Margaretha Krucker)	RATIONALE: Increased interest in mineral wealth of Panamint Range. Some areas need more protection than they have under Class "L". Reclassification should be started at once.	Does not meet criteria. No absolute need to decide prior to May 1985.

TABLE B-1
AMENDMENTS NOT ACCEPTED FOR CONSIDERATION IN 1984
Amendments Dropped

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment <u>AMENDMENTS DROPPED</u>	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Remarks
	<u>Desert-wide</u>		
84-P-13	AMENDMENT: BLM must notify by registered mail all owners of (1) Federal mining claims, (2) Federal mineral leases, (3) rights-of-way, (4) easements, (5) private property or (6) any real property interest at least 90 days prior to any change in class or management in an area within which such ownership interests lie. (California Mining Assn.)	RATIONALE: BLM should carry out a notification process similar to that used by state, county and local agencies for rezoning processes and similar matters. BLM has information needed for preparing notification lists.	Outside the scope of the Desert Plan.
84-P-16	AMENDMENT: Create a map for the CDCA showing topographical features, highways and roads, and land classifications (i.e. land status, "open" vs. "closed," ACECs, etc.) (Ecol. Center of So. Calif.)	RATIONALE: No map of this kind exists. People who wish to recreate, travel, or work in the area have only two options - topographic or road maps. The two complement each other yet do not include classification boundaries. BLM has this information and could generate such a map.	Outside the scope of the Desert Plan. The recently-published Resource Area guides present this information.
84-P-29	AMENDMENT: Create permanent interpretative signs and post them along paved roads in East Mojave National Scenic Area (Ecol. Center So. Calif.)	RATIONALE: The Mojave is a scenic and historical wonderland. Interpretative signs are needed for visitors to the desert, depicting scenic turn-offs and historical markers, etc. This is a necessity for people driving through without literature to promote tourism and Mojave appreciation.	Outside scope of Desert Plan.
	<u>Wilderness</u>		
84-P-17	AMENDMENT: Change WSA 271 (Woods Mountains) from non-suitable to suitable. (Sierra Club)	RATIONALE: The Woods Mountain wilderness, besides containing outstanding natural features, contains one of the finest archeological complexes in the East Mojave. Woods Wash has been nominated by the BLM to the National Register of Historic Places.	No new information presented that has not been considered in either the development of the plan or in the 1982 amendment process (this was 1982 amendment No. 30.)

TABLE B-1
AMENDMENTS NOT ACCEPTED FOR CONSIDERATION IN 1984
Amendments Dropped

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment AMENDMENTS DROPPED (Con't)	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Remarks
	<u>Wilderness (Continued)</u>		
84-P-18	AMENDMENT: Change WSA 206 (Newberry Mountains) from suitable to non-suitable, Class "L". (Calif. Mining Assoc.)	<u>RATIONALE:</u> The Newberry Mountains contain a substantial amount of private land and mineral rights, making management as wilderness impossible. Similar cases in other states and analogous 1983 CDCA amendments (13 & 14) support this amendment. If "split estate" mineral rights are sufficient to drop WSA status, then full estate (surface rights and mineral rights) ownership should be an even more compelling reason to change suitability.	No new data presented. The court case concerning whether "split estate" status is sufficient to drop WSA designation has yet to be resolved.
84-P-19	AMENDMENT: Change WSA 207 (Rodman Mountains) from suitable to non-suitable, Class "L". (Calif. Mining Assoc.)	<u>RATIONALE:</u> Same as last amendment.	Same as last amendment.
84-P-20	AMENDMENT: Change WSA 310 (Chemehuevi Mountains) from suitable to non-suitable, Class "L". (Calif. Mining Assoc.) <u>A.C.E.C.s and Special Areas</u>	<u>RATIONALE:</u> Same as last amendment.	Same as last amendment.
84-P-3	AMENDMENT: Designate an ACEC for archaeological and geologic resources on Pebble Terrace. Final boundaries will be drawn after completion of the current inventory contract. (BLM, Indio RA)	<u>RATIONALE:</u> The archaeological resources (primarily stone quarrying activity) extend for several miles and are very rare, in terms of density and extent. There is a potential for considerable age at the archaeological sites. The terraces themselves are geologically unusual in terms of age and formation processes.	BLM has a contractor conducting a cultural resources inventory in that area. If significant resources needing ACEC management are found, the amendment will be submitted later.

TABLE B-1
AMENDMENTS NOT ACCEPTED FOR CONSIDERATION IN 1984
Amendments Dropped

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment <u>AMENDMENTS DROPPED (Con't)</u>	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Remarks
84-P-27	<u>A.C.E.C.s and Special Areas (Con't)</u> AMENDMENT: Restore the EMNSA to its natural boundaries. Restore the area south of I-15 (Kokoweef, Mescal Mountains, Ivanpah Mountains) to EMNSA. (Citizens for Mojave Nat. Park)	 RATIONALE: The alleged reason for tampering with this part of the EMNSA boundaries was Molycorp's mining claims. Since 1982, there has been no active commercial mining in this area. Commercial mining and the EMNSA are compatible. By making artificial boundaries in the 1982 Plan Amendment Process, BLM has watered down its commitment both to the EMNSA and to the plan amendment process. Restoration of EMNSA's natural boundaries would help correct this past mistake. The current boundary south into the Mescal and Kokoweef makes no sense and is unmanageable.	 No new information or circumstances cited since approval of 1982 amendment.
84-P-28	AMENDMENT: Reinstate entire deleted portion of East Mojave National Scenic Area. (Patrick Kelly, Chino)	 RATIONALE: Prior to deletion in 1983 of approximately 10 percent of scenic area, all other proposals regarding disposition of proposed changes in Scenic Area had been deferred pending court litigation on the area special designation. Overlooking this blanket response, the BLM has unconditionally accepted the arguments of Molycorp that the Scenic Area impedes mining operations near Mountain Pass. Actually, Scenic Area designation ministerially excludes restrictions on mining. The Molycorp proposal was passed against significant public opposition. Consequently, in approving this change the Bureau demonstrated the unethical practice of partisan planning.	 No new information or circumstances cited since approval of 1982 plan amendment.

TABLE B-1
AMENDMENTS NOT ACCEPTED FOR CONSIDERATION IN 1984
Amendments Dropped

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment <u>AMENDMENTS DROPPED (Con't)</u>	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Remarks
	<u>Livestock Grazing</u>		
84-P-30	AMENDMENT: Cancel the grazing lease on the Kelso Dunes. (Laura Brady)	<u>RATIONALE</u> : The Kelso Dunes are a majestic recreational, photographic area with sensitive wildflowers, galleta grass, and endemic species of plants and insects. Cattle grazing destroys the dune system. Cattle are tired of paying welfare to grazing leasees.	No new information or circumstances cited since development of plan or consideration during 1982 amendment review.
	<u>Minerals</u>		
84-P-14	AMENDMENT: A questionable mining claim is invalid until a cursory validity examination has been made. BLM is flooded with many questionable get-rich-quick mining claims. Some of these are outright frauds and scams. BLM needs a process to sort out probability of genuine and questionable mining claims. (Sierra Club)	<u>RATIONALE</u> : Such questionable mining schemes as Soda Lake and Mesquite Lake should not have occurred until a cursory validity exam had been made. Both of these Pleistocene Dry Lakes merit ACEC status or some other protective status, but BLM's mining claim process failed to protect natural and cultural resources.	Amendment not required. The validity examination process already serves this function.
	<u>Recreation</u>		
84-P-15	AMENDMENT: Amend Recreation Element to establish a permanent "Office of Recreation" which would (1) coordinate all recreational studies and (2) supervise planning, and development of new recreational facilities. (Citizens for Mojave Nat'l Park)	<u>RATIONALE</u> : Such an office will be needed to accommodate projected surge in recreational demand in coming years.	Such an organizational change is outside the scope of the Bureau's planning process. We are presently conducting a study of the organization of the Desert District. This study will identify areas where changes of this sort should be considered.

TABLE B-1
AMENDMENTS NOT ACCEPTED FOR CONSIDERATION IN 1984
Amendments Dropped

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment <u>AMENDMENTS DROPPED (Con't)</u>	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Remarks
	<u>Multiple Use Class Designation</u>		
84-P-22	AMENDMENT: Delete the Mecca Hills from the BLM Desert Plan. (Sareea Al Jamel - 4WD Club)	<u>RATIONALE:</u> None given.	No new data or circumstances cited.
84-P-23	AMENDMENT: Delete the Chuckwalla Mountains from the BLM Desert Plan. (Sareea Al Jamel 4WD Club)	<u>RATIONALE:</u> None given.	No new data or circumstances cited.
84-P-24	AMENDMENT: Delete the Orocoopia Mountains from the BLM Desert Plan. (Sareea Al Jamel 4WD Club)	<u>RATIONALE:</u> None given.	No new data or circumstances cited.

APPENDIX C

AMENDMENTS CONSIDERED
IN 1984

Table C-1

Sources of Amendments Accepted for
Consideration in 1982

Final Amend. No.	Prelim. Amend. No.	Title	Proponent
1.	84-P-1	Modify ACEC Boundaries	
a.	84-P-1a	Eureka Valley Dunes (No. 3)	BLM, Ridgecrest R.A.
b.	84-P-1b	Darwin Falls (No. 6)	BLM, Ridgecrest R.A.
c.	84-P-1c	Last Chance Canyon (No. 21)	BLM, Ridgecrest R.A.
d.	84-P-1d	Jawbone-Butterbrecht (No. 20)	BLM, Ridgecrest R.A.
e.	84-P-1e	Salt Creek (Dumont) (No. 18)	BLM, Barstow R.A.
f.	84-P-1f	Upper Johnson Valley Yucca Rings (No. 46)	BLM, Barstow R.A.
g.	84-P-1g	Amargosa River/Grimshaw Lake (No. 13)	BLM, Barstow R.A.
h.	84-P-1h	Whitewater Canyon (No. 49)	BLM, Indio R.A.
i.	84-P-1i	Big Morongo Canyon (No. 50)	BLM, Indio R.A.
j.	84-P-1j	Salt Creek-Pupfish/Rail Habitat (No. 60)	BLM, Indio R.A.
k.	84-P-1k	Lake Cahuilla No. 2 (No. 65)	BLM, El Centro R.A.
l.	84-P-1l	Lake Cahuilla No. 5 (No. 69)	BLM, El Centro R.A.
m.	84-P-1m	Pilot Knob (No. 73)	BLM, El Centro R.A.
2.	84-P-4	New ACEC at Willow Hole/Edom Hill	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Coachella Valley Audubon Soc.
3.	84-P-31	Modify Pattons Camp Manage ment Design	BLM, Needles R.A.
4.	84-P-11	New Utility Corridor near Coso Hot Springs	BLM, Ridgecrest R.A.
5.	84-P-8	Modify Wording of Grazing Element	High Desert Cattlemen's Association

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Last Chance Canyon: 2-2, 3-2, 4-3, A-3

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R'S CARD

5 1984 c.2

amendments to
a desert

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(Continued on reverse)

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Proposed 1984 amendments to
the California desert

GAYLORD M

